

AARON K. GIFT, The Author, Residing at Middleburg, Pa.

See History of John Adam Gift, Chap. ii.

HISTORY

OF THE

GIFT, KERN AND ROYER FAMILIES

COMPILED BY

AARON KERN GIFT

MIDDLEBURGH, PA.

(Snyder Co.)

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"Not to know what happened before we were born is to remain always a child; for what were the life of man did we not combine present events with the recollections of past ages."—Cicero.

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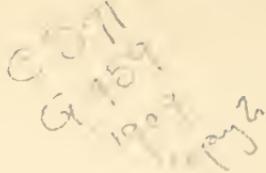
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*Colby*



“Like leaves on trees, the race of man is found,  
Now green in youth, now withering on the ground;  
Another race the following spring supplies,  
They fall successive, and successive rise;  
So generations in their course decay,  
So flourish these, when those have passed away.”

—POPE.

(ii)

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## PREFACE

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Ever since my boyhood from about 1839, I have been interested in the history of our ancestors, both on my maternal and paternal sides. This sympathetic historical feeling was first aroused during my youthful days, through the influence of my grandfather, Jeremiah Gift, who was a well-read man, and had an excellent memory. He gave me many data, concerning accidents, and incidents in relation to the Gift ancestors; as did also Colonel Henry Royer, of Rebersburg, Pa., when I was a young man, give me many data in reference to the ancestry of the Royer family. All these data, I may say laid the foundation of the present history.

While we are enjoying the results of the labor of our ancestors, their memory is fast fading away, and sinking into the darkness of oblivion.

Time is indeed swiftly blotting from the records, those whose memory we desire to perpetuate, and their history would be lost forever, if not soon gathered from the fast disappearing pages of memory, and as time passes, family ties grow more and more uncertain and finally drift apart. Often these connections become hazy and obscure making the historian's task difficult, yea almost impossible.

It has indeed been a difficult task to gather the material from public records, private records, and authentic tradition and to arrange it in proper order.

It has been my lifelong design to do this, so that the history of our ancestors and their descendants may be properly preserved and transmitted to posterity.

I have labored many months trying to make this little volume as nearly correct as possible; and the records in the following pages are probably more nearly so than they could be made by future generations.

It is a matter of painful regret that no more data and records were made and preserved by our early ancestors. If this had been done, the writer would have had an easier task. Nevertheless the preparation of this little volume has been a tedious but a pleasant work. The new acquaintances which have been formed, are in themselves very valuable and esteemed.

In order to gather the proper facts and material, it was necessary for the author to do some traveling to different parts of the country. This proved, however to be an expensive luxury, yet we do not in the least regret it.

In addition to this many hundreds of letters were written to descendants and relatives, extending over a territory from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and from the Lakes to the Carolinas. Many of these letters were answered satisfactorily. Others were answered in a way, that no reliable information in relation to this

history could be gained. Still some others would not respond at all even though several letters were written and return postage enclosed.

The preparation of a history of this character can not be performed without assistance from others. I now desire to make acknowledgment to the following persons who have materially assisted me in the collection of data: Austin Gift, Paxtonville, Pa.; W. D. Gift and H. S. Stetler, of Middleburg, Pa.; Prof. J. H. App, 483 E. Buchtel Ave., Akron, Ohio; Mrs. John H. Gift, Iaqua, Humboldt Co., California; George T. Gift and Samuel Bobb, of Orangeville, Ill.; Dr. J. R. Gift and Phares Gift, of Freeport, Ill.; Jane and Ella Gift, of Altoona, Pa.; Prof. M. E. Kleckner, Tiffin, Ohio; A. W. Gift, 1007 Locust St., Howard W. Gift, 1002 N. Eighth St., and Thomas J. Gift, 762 Penn St., all of Reading, Pa.; W. M. Gift, 137 S. Eighth St., and Daniel S. Gift, 815 Turner St., both of Allentown, Pa.; Allen J. Fink, Hamburg, Pa.; A. Aicher, Mt. Sterling, Ky.

Hezekiah P. Gift, Camden, Preble Co., Ohio; Charles Gift, dec'd, Fairfield, Iowa; Mrs. Katharine McWhinney, Washburn, Ill.; John S. Gift, dec'd, Lemasters, Franklin Co., Pa.; Hiram H. Mason, Zanesville, Ohio, and Julian Gift, Athens, Ohio.

Mason H. Kern, Bellevue, Ohio; Simon P. Kern, Hanna, Ind.; C. J. Kern, Valparaiso, Ind; Prof. C. C. Zigler, 1902 N. Broadway, St. Louis, Mo.; Minnie Maud Grenninger, per Rev. Foster N. Gift, Philadelphia, Pa.

J. R. Brungart, Thomas E. Royer, James R. Gramley, Rebersburg, Pa.; Michael Zug, Lebanon, Pa.; George W. Wagenseller, Middleburg, Pa. Both the latter are local historians.

The author is also obliged to all others who have contributed dator in a minor way.

The Gift and Royer families are related to some extent by intermarriage.

If this publication shall serve to bring the various branches of the families, mentioned closer together and shall create in them a greater interest in each other and make them more solicitous for the good names of these several families, surely then, something will have been accomplished in the right direction.

Lastly the author wishes all his readers long and happy lives. He hopes to meet many here below, should this not be possible, may our meeting be a pleasant one beyond the skies.

Very sincerely yours,

Aaron Kern Gift,

Middleburg, Pa.

June 8, 1908.

# LIFE AND TRAVELS OF AARON KERN GIFT.

---

## CHAPTER ONE

The author, Aaron Kern Gift, oldest son of John and Elizabeth Kern Gift, was born November 19, 1827, on the old Gift homestead, or farm, near where Paxtonville is now located, in Franklin township, Snyder Co., Pa. This farm was purchased in 1793 by his great-grandfather, Johan Adam Gift, who came over from Germany in 1750. The farm was then owned successively by the writer's grandfather, Jeremiah, then by his father, John, and finally by the writer, himself. This farm has been owned by the Gift family about one hundred years. It has since been sub-divided. The principal part is now owned by William A. Mitchel.

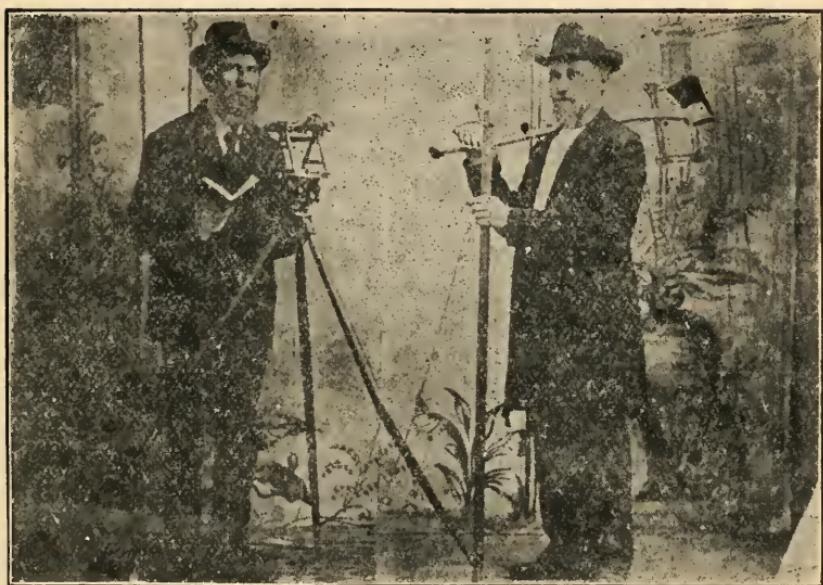
The writer, obtained during his early boyhood an elementary education in subscription schools. After the free school system was established, he continued his studies under that system. Afterwards, he attended a select school for one year under Prof. Waldo Reed, at Middleburg, Pa. Later, he took up surveying and civil engineering under Prof. Peckman, and the Hon. Samuel Alleman. The latter assisted him very much in practice and field work.

The writer always had a great ambition to acquire a good education; what he lacked in opportunity, he made up by his vigorous intellect and studious habits. Very often, during the summer, he assisted his father on the farm, and taught school in winter. He began to teach at the age of seventeen years, and taught fourteen terms in succession, until he was past thirty-one years of age. Seven terms of which, he taught in succession at Beaver Furnace, now Paxtonville, in Franklin township, the district in which he resided. This shows that his services were appreciated at home. On the 24th day of May, 1855, he married Amelia Royer, daughter of John and Catharine Gemberling Royer. She was a great-granddaughter of Christopher Royer, who came from Germany in 1748; and a granddaughter of Sebastian Royer. The old homestead, where Amelia was born, is located in Franklin township, near what is called Royer's bridge spanning Middlecreek. Her father died when the

children were quite young. After her father's death, she lived with her uncle, Samuel Gemberling, at New Columbia, Union county, Pa.

The author and wife had three sons and two daughters, namely: Charles Oliver, who died at the age of three years and four days; John Royer Gift, now at Dillon, Wyoming; Herbert Alvin, a solo clarinetist, late of Middleburg, Pa.; Minerva Jane, married to Prof. John H. App, of Akron, O., and Mary Elizabeth, married to Henry S. Stetler, of Middleburg, Pa.

The writer was engaged in farming and surveying—serving several terms as county surveyor of Snyder county until the breaking out of the Rebellion. In June, 1863, he enlisted in Company I, Capt. A. C. Simpson, 30th Reg't., Pa. Vol. Militia—Col. William N. Monies commanding the regiment. He was promoted to orderly sergeant. The regiment remained in the service until after the battle at Gettysburg. When the emergency was over, the regiment was mustered out as per A. G. O. 103. This regiment assisted in driving back the rebels from almost the city limits of Harrisburg, Pa., which city was threatened with an invasion by Gen. Lee's advance army, just before the great battle at Gettysburg. The regiment rendered important service at Carlisle, and in other parts of the Cumberland valley, until Gen. Lee's forces were driven out of the state. Our regiment, together with other troops, arrived at Carlisle, Pa., on the evening of June 27, 1863. Gen. Lee's advance guard, commanded by Gen. Stuart, retreated during that day from Oyster Point, about four miles from Harrisburg, Pa., and were stationed at the Barracks, near Carlisle. At about eight o'clock in the evening, Gen. Stuart began to shell the town. Our forces returned the compliment, and at about two o'clock in the morning of June 28th, Stuart's forces retreated towards Gettysburg. Afterwards the War Department made a call for more volunteers, and seeing that his military services were further needed, he responded. Captain Lewis Miller, Sergeant John H. Louis and the author commenced recruiting, and such was their success, that in one week's time they had their company filled to the maximum number. This company was composed of some of the best military material in the county. The company reported to the department at Harrisburg, and was assigned to the 74th Reg't. Pa., Infantry volunteers, Colonel G. Hoburg commanding. The regiment was then stationed at Green Spring Run, West Va. This regiment did important service in the Potomac Valley, at Beverly, Clarksburg and Parkersburg, West Va. The author was promoted to Second Lieutenant in his company. His commission being dated the 2nd day of May, A. D. 1865. Afterwards he was promoted to First Lieu't, his commission being dated the 23rd day of June A. D. 1865. His regiment not having a regular commissioned Adjutant, his colonel appointed him to that



Aaron K. Gift, The Author, as Civil Engineer and Surveyor.

See History of John Adam Gift, chap. I.



position. He performed the duties of his appointment with credit to himself and to his regiment until a regular Adjutant was commissioned, when, being relieved, he rejoined his company. His regiment was mustered out of service at Clarksburg, West Va., August 29, 1865, by reason of the close of the war, as per G. O. No. 94, C. S. war department, A. G. O.

The author, while in the military service, was known to be obedient to the commands of his superiors, kind and affable to his subordinates. He is still honored and respected by his comrades in Arms, who still live. But these comrades are dropping off, one by one, to join those whose bones are mouldering beneath the sod of southern soil.

After the close of the war, and in the Spring of 1866, he rented his farm and moved to the Borough of Middleburg, not with the intention of retiring, but merely to give his time and talents to his favorite profession, that of surveying and conveyancing. As a surveyor, he has had much experience, both in the valleys and on the unseated lands of our mountains.

By an Act of the Penna. Assembly on April 5, 1870, R. F. Brown, of Union, Henry P. Trecziyulny (a Polish name) of Centre, John Swartzell of Mifflin, and the writer of Snyder county, all practical surveyors, were appointed commissioners, as representatives of the above named counties, to run and mark the boundary lines between the counties of Union, Centre, Mifflin and Snyder. Their duties were to run the following lines: Beginning at the northeastern corner of Centre and Union counties, at or near the Tea Spring; thence by a southwesterly course along the present boundary line between said counties to where the same intersects the lines of Mifflin; thence in a southeasterly course along the boundary lines of Mifflin and Union to where the same intersect the lines of Union and Snyder counties, upon Jack's mountain; and thence along the boundary lines of Union and Snyder to the West Branch of the Susquehanna river.

In pursuance of said act, the said commissioners met at Lewisburg, Union county, on June 20, 1870, when the following corps was organized, as axmen, chainmen and provision carriers, etc. to wit: Wilbur Blair, Alfred Shope, Charles P. Trecziyulny, Samuel Bowen, James Gudykunst, Howard Green, J. W. Simonton, W. O. Shaffer, Wilbur F. Swartzell and Luther Swartzell. Afterwards, others were employed. On June 22nd, the corps left Lewisburg, and went up Pennscreek to a point thirty miles west from Lewisburg, to Fullmar's, now Carey & Schnure's saw mill, and after running some connections until June 24th, commenced the running of the lines prescribed by said act. Full notes of the said running are in the hands of said commissioners. Maps and drafts of the same are on file in the offices of the clerks of quarter sessions in each of the said four counties, as prescribed by said act. The corps had

adjourned several times during the summer and the work was not finished until October of the same year.

This work was attended with many hardships. The parties suffered sometimes for want of water and provisions. All the provisions, blankets and sometimes the water had to be carried because teams could not be used over the mountains. Many of the lines were from five to six miles long, without any houses so that a great deal of camping out was necessary, often in the mountains our work was from eight to ten miles from the nearest building. The whole distance run, including all the connecting lines, was about one hundred and ten miles. The season proved extremely propitious for snakes, no less than twenty-three rattlesnakes and ten copperheads being killed along the lines. Many escaped into the crevices of the rocks and the dense underbrush.

Charles R. Paxton, the father of Paxtonville, Snyder Co., and former president of the Bloomsburg Iron Company, owned many iron ore and timber tracts of land along the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad. He wished to ascertain the accessibility of his tracts and ore veins from the public roads and the said railroad.

In 1870 he engaged the services of the writer to make extensive surveys. He surveyed the said railroad and the public roads, as well as private roads, leading from the public roads and railroads to his ore and timber lands. These surveys extended from Smith Grove (Kreamer Station) to the county lines between Snyder and Mifflin counties, a distance of twenty-five miles. Maps of the said surveys were made, and are now in the possession of the Bloomsburg Iron Company at Bloomsburg, Columbia county, Pa. Copies of the same are still on file in the office of the author.

In May, A. D. 1877, the county commissioners of Snyder county, in connection with the county commissioners of Mifflin county, appointed John Swartzell, of Mifflin county and the author, of Snyder county, as commissioners to run, establish and distinctly mark the boundary line between said counties. This work was performed by the said commissioners in June of the same year. Drafts have been filed in each of the said counties in the commissioners' office, showing the intersections of said boundary lines, with the amount or number of acres so cut by said lines, and contained in each county. This was for the purpose of throwing the taxes of such unseated lands to the proper county where they belonged.

In 1880 he was engaged by the county commissioners of Snyder county, to make surveys, maps and diagrams of the premises of John Kintzler and vicinity, to show the said premises, public and private roads and all the paths. This survey extended in length, about three miles. This being for the use of the court in the Kintzler murder trials, which

murders were committed in Adams township, Snyder county, Dec. 8, 1877. The writer has a full history of the said trials, of the evidences, the Judge's charges to the jurors, the confessions of the prisoners and other important facts relating to the said cases.

In A. D. 1867 and 1868, the author, in connection with Joseph A. Lumbard, edited and published the "Snyder County Tribune," at Middleburg, Pa. The Tribune office has since been moved to Selinsgreve, and Mr. Lumbard was for a long time the sole editor and proprietor, but has lately sold a half interest to his son. It always was and still is one of the leading organs in the county.

The author was elected to the office of county surveyor four successive terms, but afterwards refused to accept another term.

He always performed the duties of said office with fidelity and satisfaction to all parties concerned.

He holds five Justice's commissions, his last one expired May 1887, giving him twenty-two years service, two years of which he served in Franklin township before he moved in 1866 to the borough of Middleburg, was elected Justice in his new district, and served twenty years in succession. Afterwards he was appointed Notary Public. At the spring election of 1906 he was again elected to the office of Justice in and for the Borough of Middleburg. About twelve hundred civil cases are recorded on his old dockets, that were tried before him, besides a very large number of criminal cases. His decisions were always respected, so that comparatively, very few of his cases were ever appealed or certioraried, and in most of those cases, his opinion was sustained. He had the welfare of his fellow-men at heart, and induced many parties, that applied to him, to settle their cases without going to law.

As a conveyancer, he has had much experience during his official career. Up to this time, 1887, he drew about two thousand three hundred eighty nine (2,389) deeds of conveyance in real estate. He settled many Estates, as Executor and Administrator, and in every case to the entire satisfaction of all the parties interested.

In his time the author held numerous other offices of minor importance, such as School Director, Assessor, Councilman, etc., all of which he filled with honesty and fidelity. He was an officer in the union Sunday school, in the Borough of Middleburg, for a number of years. He helped to organize the first Sunday school at Paxtonville, then Beaver Furnace. In his youth, he became a member of the Lutheran church.

He was one of the original projectors of the Sunbury and Lewistown railroad, and gave his time and talents to the enterprise until the road was in running order. He assisted greatly in soliciting stock, and after the requisite amount was subscribed, the company appointed him a

collector of stock, which duty he performed satisfactorily to the company. When said company was first organized, in 1866, he was elected a member of the Board of Directors, and was annually thereafter re-elected, and remained a member until 1873. Several years after the road was completed, George H. Arms was employed by the company as chief engineer, and the writer as assistant. In consequence of said appointment, he, as assistant engineer, ran the first Transit over the route from Sunbury to Lewistown in the summer of 1867, as a final location. (A preliminary route had previously been run.) Very few changes from the original line have since been made.

When the railroad was completed, he was employed as surveyor and engineer along the line of the road. He laid out Smithgrove, now Kreamer, for the proprietor, the Hon. Jacob A. Smith. The town of Franklin, opposite Middleburg, was laid out by him for the proprietor, Isaac Beaver. He also laid out McClure for G. F. Holshue and H. B. Huffman, Soradaville for Franklin Miller, and additions to Middleburg, Beavertown, and Adamsburg (now Beaver Springs.) Plots of said towns are on file in his office.

He has in his possession some very old relics. Among them is a German Bible, printed at Frankfort, on the Mayne River, in the year A. D. 1718, now, in 1906, it is 188 years old. This Bible was presented by Johan Adam Gift to his son Jeremiah, who left it to his son, John, and after his death, his son, the author became the possessor of it. Thus the old Bible is now in the possession of the fourth generation.

The writer always was and still is a great lover of music. In his time, he gave instrumental music considerable attention. He is a performer on the fife, violin and clarinet, the latter being his favorite instrument. In 1849, when a young man, he helped to organize the first brass and reed Band Middleburg ever had, which he led with an Eb clarinet. The rest of the members were as follows: John S. Hassinger, 1st Bb clarinet; William Schwenk, 2nd Bb clarinet; John Bilger, Eb trumpet; Joseph Bolender, 1st cornet; Edward Wetzel, 2d cornet; John Y. Shindle, French Horn; Thomas B. Bibighouse, Tenor Trombone; Aaron G. Hassinger, Bass Trombone; Jacob A. Smith, Bass Orphoclyde, and Charles Boyer, Bass drum. Afterwards other members were added. It was kept up over four years. This band was afterwards reorganized, and is still an organization in 1908, in Middleburg, under the leadership of John F. Stetler, and is now known as "Stetler's Cornet Band," some of its members being very efficient musicians. It is one of the best bands in this part of the state.

The writer is still in possession of his Eb clarinet, which is now, in 1908, fifty-nine years old, and is quite a relic. He encouraged the

cultivation of music in his town, and in his family, which became quite musical both vocally and instrumentally. For some years, a family orchestra was maintained, consisting of six or more members. He led with the violin, his son H. Alvin, clarinet, his two daughters, Minerva J., and Mary E., piano and organ, respectively, George Steininger, cornet, and Calvin Stetler Bass horn. This organization held weekly meetings at the residence of the writer for mutual musical benefit, and was kept up until the daughters married and left home. Both daughters were organists in church and Sunday school. The elder, Minerva J., gave lessons on the piano and organ, at Center Hall, Centre county; at Myers-town, Lebanon county, and at Middleburg and vicinity, Snyder county, Pa.

In the spring of 1853, the author made a visiting and sightseeing tour to Sandusky and Huron counties, and the city of Bellevue, Ohio.

He met many of the old pioneers, who had emigrated from Union county, Pa., to that locality in Ohio, in the years from 1825 to 1835. Chief amongst them were: Peter DeWald, John Decker, John Heater, Barnhart Kline, Jacob Kern, and his son, Yost, and Peter Kern, the latter three named and their families having emigrated by means of wagon to Bellevue, Ohio, in 1833.

Jacob and Peter Kern were uncles of the writer's mother, and at the time of this visit, in 1853, they were very old. Jacob was feeble, but Peter was yet hearty and vigorous, considering his advanced age.

The writer's eldest son, John R., left his home in Middleburg, Pa., May 21st, 1883, to see the west.

He visited many of the western states, among others were North Dakota, Washington, Oregon, California, Wyoming and Colorado.

In Sept. 1887, he left Denver, Col. and went to Lexington, Dawson county, Nebr. He wrote to his father, expressing himself well satisfied with the place as a farming country, and inviting his father to come and see the locality, and if satisfied with the country, they together would purchase a farm. On Sept. 17th 1887, his father, the author, left Middleburg, Pa., and arrived in Lexington, Nebr., on Sept. 21st.

After looking over the country in several counties, a farm was purchased, it being the northwest quarter of Section two, Town Nine, north range twenty-one west, containing 160 acres, located  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west from Lexington, the county seat of Dawson Co., Nebr. After this farm was bought, they made a trip to the city Cheyenne, a city containing a population of 9000. It is the capital of the state of Wyoming, and the greatest cattle shipping center in the country.

Remaining here for several days, and after seeing all the places of interest, they left for the city of Denver. This city is the capital of

Colorado, and contains 100,000 inhabitants. It is called the "Queen city of the Plains," 5,203 feet above sea level, located twenty miles from the foot hills of the Rocky mountains, thirty-two miles from the real mountains. It is a very wealthy city. There we saw many places of interest, among others, we visited a silver and lead smelter, saw the metal run like water into moulds.

On Oct. 11th the author made a trip farther west to see the gold, silver and lead mining districts, and more of the Rocky mountains, before returning to the east. He left Denver for Georgetown and Silverbloom by the Colorado Central Railroad. Along this route he passed the following towns, among others were: Golden, here is a large gold, silver and lead smelter, Morrison, Elk Creek, Black Hawk and Idaho Springs, a great summer resort. The water here contains sulphur, and other medicinal properties. The place contains very fine buildings.

The next place, at which he arrived, was Georgetown, a mining town of 3000 inhabitants, located in a sort of a kettle or ravine between the mountains. A short ride brought us to Silverbloom which is 8,435 feet above sea level. This is also a mining town, containing 900 inhabitants. A fair view of the Rockies was had here. By permission he procured some fine specimens of the precious ores which he brought home to show to his friends.

And now, after partaking of a very hearty dinner, at Silverbloom, at such a great elevation, it was at least the most lofty meal he ever ate, we returned and in due time reached Georgetown again. After once more looking for new interests in this mining town, the conductor's familiar cry was heard, "All aboard," and we obeyed his command. On our way back, after leaving the Foot Hills of the Rocky mountains and reaching the plains for the first time we noticed the irrigation process, of which we will speak more hereafter. We reached the city of Denver at 6 p. m.

By request, the writer gives the following of this romantic and interesting narrow gauge railroad from the city of Denver to Georgetown and Silverbloom. The grade from the Foot Hills of the mountains is 220 feet to the mile, at least 75 per cent of the whole distance is curvature. The road follows the bed of Clear Creek, a small mountain stream of clear and fresh water. It is a branch of the South Fork of the Platte river, its source is in the Rocky mountains. I made a freebound drawing sketch of the Railroad from Georgetown to Silverbloom. The plot is given in my journal, page 50. It is called the "Loop" Railroad, from its windings, and crossing its own track over an iron bridge one hundred feet above the first track. In this high altitude, snow is seen almost the whole year, on the mountain peaks. The rocks overhang the railroad track, the same being cut out of almost solid rock, trough fashion, in

ravines or gaps where the sun never reaches. In many places along this road, through the gaps, the sides of the mountain are natural rock walls, running up on either side almost perpendicularly, in other places at an angle of from 35 to 60 degrees, in some instances to a height of from 400 to 600 feet. The curvature of this road is very great, naturally the train runs very slowly and cautiously.

If the tourist is looking ahead past the locomotive he will take it for granted that the engine is running against the rocks, but about the time the engine is there, it will glide either to the right or to the left around a very sharp curve, and to his great relief the rocks are missed, and one will breath easier, until the next sharp curve is reached. For an extra precaution not only the ordinary coupling is used, for on either side strong stay chains are used between all the cars to prevent accidents. Should a coupler break, and part of the train dash down such an incline of 220 feet to the mile.

Geologically speaking, the formation of the rock in our Pennsylvania mountains is quite different to that of the Rocky mountains. Here often the rocks lie flat, in some places in a horizontal position, and in others the rocks lie in any and every position, just as though they were spilled there, this is at least the superficial appearance, here are plainly to be seen the foot-prints of the great prehistoric up-heaval, when mountains were formed, lifted out of the bowels of the earth, when the crust of this planet—Earth, underwent cooling processes ages before man was created by the All-wise Creator of the Universe.

Gold, copper, lead and silver are mined in the Rocky mountains, westward from Denver.

Before one commences to mine, he must buy a claim from a former owner; if this cannot be done, he must find an unoccupied space, and stake it out by metes and bounds, have this paid for, and entered in order to have government protection. If he leaves his claim unworked for a space of six months, it is considered abandoned, and the party is termed a "claim jumper," and it is open for some one else to re-enter it, and work the mine and thus procure good title. Sometimes surface mining pays well, mostly, however, drifting is resorted to, similar to our iron ore, and coal mining in Pennsylvania. In such cases, the miner has doors to the mouths of his drifts, which are locked in his absence, so that this valuable ore can not be carried away.

Sometimes gold ore is in fine particles, mixed with sand and earth. This requires to be washed, generally by machinery, the motive power of which is steam, water or some other force.

In some localities, gold ore is hard like rock. This is called gold quartz, which must be crushed, before smelting, in what are called quartz or stamp mills. Among the most valuable of the precious ores are the

gold quartz, an oxide of Silican, and peacock gold ore. It is an iridescent variety of pyrites of gold. Among the copper ores are chalcopyrites, being a sulphide of copper, and Malachite, being a hydrated carbonate of copper. Galena is the most valuable among the lead ores.

Silver ore has not so many varieties in composition as the former ore; it is generally mined by drifting.

Gold and silver mining, especially, is a very expensive and uncertain business, a few get rich, but the majority of those who have embarked in this calling have buried all the money they had, in the mines, and received nothing in return.

On Oct. 12th 1887, the author left Denver for Lexington, Nebr., on the Union Pacific Railroad, which runs along the south fork of the Platte river. We passed the following towns: Brighton, Platteville, LaSalle, Buffalo, Crook and Julesburg at the Junction with the main line. From Denver to this place it is 160 miles. This entire distance runs over a great dry plain; it being, however, good for grazing purposes.

Along this line we saw some wild antelopes, and prairie wolves, and other wild game. Irrigation is resorted to here, to some extent. The soil is black, deep and rich, but there is not enough rain fall to make good crops without artificial moisture. Irrigation is done in this manner: Large companies are formed, regularly chartered; and civil engineers are employed to survey and lay out the proposed line; the canals are dug; the main lines of which are sometimes many miles in length, besides lateral ditches which run in different directions for farmers' use.

The water to feed the main canal is generally procured from streams or creeks, the source of which is at or near the Rocky mountains. It costs the farmer generally from \$3.00 to \$5.00 annually, per acre, for the use of the water, according to the quantity he receives.

Along the line from Denver to Julesburg, 160 miles, we conversed with some farmers and stock raisers, who explained that where irrigation was carried on, heavy crops were assured every year. If space permits, more will be said upon this subject, later.

After a pleasant ride on the Union Pacific Railroad from Julesburg, the writer arrived at Lexington. It is the county seat of Dawson Co., Nebr. When first laid out, it was called Plum Creek. It is a fine town, containing 2300 inhabitants. It has one large modern roller mill, five Dry goods stores, eight groceries, three shoe stores, two hardware stores, three Banks, two meat markets, three fine Hotels, five churches, two large graded school buildings, three newspapers, a Court house and a jail.

After he had looked over his real estate, bought near this town, on Oct. 14, 1887, he left for his Pennsylvania home, stopping off at Hooper and Fremont, Nebr., also at Vanwert, Vanwert county, Ohio, for a few

days' visit, and finally on Oct. 21, 1887, he reached Middleburg, Pa., his home, in good health and spirits, well pleased with his western tour.

In the spring of 1889, the writer's son, John R., commenced to farm on the place near Lexington, Nebr., bought in 1887. On May 8, 1890, the author and Amelia, his wife, left Middleburg for a tour to Nebr. and other western points of interest.

In due time they arrived at St. Louis, Mo., visiting with cousin C. C. Zigler and his family. There they were very pleasantly entertained. They remained in this city five days and after having visited many places of interest, they left on May 13th, for Newton, Harvey Co., Kansas, to visit Henry Benfer and his wife, Barbara Ellen, a sister of the author. Here in Newton, they met many friends who had left Snyder Co. years ago, and settled here. Newton is a fine little city of 10,000 population. Here the writer and wife were kindly entertained by their friends remaining eight days. On May 22, they left for Russel, Russel Co., Kansas. They made a visit to Joseph S. Ulsh and family, who live eight miles north east from Russell. Mr. Ulsh and his kind wife made their guests welcome. Here they remained until May 27th. They left Russell and came to Ogallah, Trego Co., Kansas, where the writer owned a farm containing 160 acres. Here he was shown a State Forestry. This is endowed and maintained by the state of Kansas. There are not less than a million forest trees raised annually from seed. The ground is cultivated between the rows like corn or fruit. In nurseries, in from three to four years the trees are fitted for transplanting. Any farmer gets free of charge five hundred young trees, all over that number and above that number must be paid.

The state of Kansas has three such public foresteries.

The author and wife remained here four days. After having looked after their real estate and other business, they bought tickets for Lexington, Nebr., passing through the following towns in Kansas: Wa-Keeney, Cuby, Oakley, Bekton, Kearney in Nebr., on the Union Pacific Railroad, arriving at Lexington, June 1st, and were taken by carriage to the farm 2½ miles east of town. Their son John, was very glad to see his parents. About two weeks after arriving here, the writer was strongly solicited by his friends and the county officials to send to Pennsylvania for his surveying instruments, that he could get much work to do because their county surveyor, C. A. Edwards, was doing Civil Engineering work and neglecting his county official work. The writer being so strongly urged, had his surveying outfit shipped.

They arrived at Lexington, June 28th. Following this, Mr. C. A. Edmonds appointed him as his deputy, and on July 9, 1890 he gave bonds for the true performance of his official duties, and was sworn in by the county clerk as Deputy County Surveyor, of Dawson Co., Nebr.

Thus we see his appointment as Deputy Surveyor was made one month and nine days after he arrived in the county.

This was more than anyone could have expected, he being an entire stranger.

The first farm survey he made was for Mr. Henry T. Thompson, and the first level he made was leveling the main streets in the town of Cozad.

During this summer of 1890 the writer and his son, J. R. Gift, built a new and comfortable five roomed house on the farm.

Close to this house, they put down what is called, in the west, a drive well, 30 feet deep, from the surface, with a top joint or handle piece. All this work was done in six hours time, when fresh and healthy water was pumped up.

These so called drive pumps in the western prairie states consist of iron piping, in joints of five feet each, with screw threads at each end. As they are driven down with sledge hammers, new joints are screwed on, and the work proceeds until the proper water depth is reached.

The lower joint has a sharp steel suction point which easily penetrates through this rich, deep and loamy soil.

In the eastern states such drive wells can not be made, for the reason that there is too much obstruction on account of the rocks and hardpan.

The author served one year and four months as Deputy Surveyor, under C. A. Edwards, until the November election of 1891, when both Mr. Edwards and the writer were candidates for the office of County Surveyor on opposite political sides. The writer was elected by a majority of eighty votes in the county.

Likewise at the November elections in 1893 and 1895 the writer and Mr. Edwards, by nomination were political opponents for the same office. The writer was still re-elected by increased majorities.

In the November election of 1897, he had been nominated again, as a candidate for the office of County Surveyor, for the fourth time. His political opponent this time was Mr. R. Sturneyk, a civil engineer and surveyor.

The writer was again successful, his majority, this time, was 186 votes over that of his opponent, Mr. Sturneyk.

Under the statutes of Nebraska, all the state and county officers are elected for a term of two years. Among the state officers, one is elected, whose office is called "Commissioner of Public Land and Buildings," who has charge of all the Public School Lands, Public State Buildings, and among other things, he is the custodian of 747 volumes of official field note books, sixty unbound volumes of new Surveys, 2400 official township plots, besides many loose plots, maps and plans. All these are kept in a large fire proof vault, which is called the State Land Department.

This Land Commissioner is not required to be a practical surveyor

himself, but is authorized to appoint an experienced and practical surveyor for this purpose, and such an appointee is called State Draughtsman, but in reality, he performs the duties of State Surveyor.

On Jan. 15, 1898, the Hon. J. V. Wolfe, Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, of the State of Nebr., appointed the author as his Draughtsman, to take charge of this post Feb. 1st following. The appointment was accepted. Soon after this, the writer tendered his resignation as County Surveyor, to the commissioners of Dawson county, Nebr., and it was accepted.

He had served a period of seven and one-half years in succession as County Surveyor of Dawson Co., Nebr.

It is not necessary to say that the writer's official work as surveyor gave entire satisfaction in the county, his first election, and three reelections are strong recommendations of his official and personal worth.

During this same period of time, he made over 350 farm surveys, located and surveyed over 50 new county roads, located and leveled a number of irrigation ditches, three of which were direct from head gates at the Platte river, besides minor and local farm lateral levels.

As per his appointment he took charge of his office in the Capitol Building, at Lincoln, Nebr., Feb. 1, 1898.

On March 2nd, he and wife moved to Lincoln, and boarded for a week at Hawthorne hotel, No. 1516 O. Street, then rented a house, No. 1329 M. Street. This was a well located home, and they took possession on March 10, 1898.

On Saturday, March 7, 1898, the First and Second Nebraska Regiments recruited for the Spanish American war, marched from the Fairground encampment to the north front of the State Capital at Lincoln, where in addition to the soldiers and their officers, by estimation 25,000 people assembled. Very patriotic speeches were delivered by Ex-Governor General Thayer and Ex-Governor Furnass, former governor of the state of Nebr. They were both very old and venerable men. Their voices were weak and tremulous, nevertheless, this great audience paid close attention to what they said. Both of them have since passed to their long homes. The last speech was made by the governor, Silas A. Holcom, whose voice was loud and clear, and he spoke with patriotic feeling. He was applauded by the soldiery, as well as by his audience, lastly, in the name of the citizens of the city of Lincoln, he presented a fine and costly flag to each of the two regiments.

By the courtesy of the Hon. J. V. Wolfe, Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, the writer, as his Draughtsman, was granted a vacation, and in consequence of this privilege, on July 18, 1900, he and Amelia, his wife, left Lincoln, and by the Chicago and Rock Island railroad route, made a trip to the city of Colorado Springs, and Denver,

Colorado, on a sight seeing tour to the Rocky mountains, and to visit their son, H. A. Gift, the clarinetist, who was then living at the Alamo hotel, as a member of the Orchestra maintained there for the amusement of the many guests and tourists.

This hotel, at the city of Colorado Springs, is known during the hot summer season as a great resort for seekers of health, and lovers of pleasure.

The Antler's hotel, in the same place, is also a great resort and is even more commodious and modern than the Alamo, and is well patronized.

The city proper, now contains 12,000 inhabitants, and is situated upon a plateau 11,000 feet above sea-level. It is five miles from the city of Colorado Springs to the foot of Pikes Peak. This space between the two points is all regularly laid out, and built up as one city; first is Colorado Springs, then Colorado city and lastly Maniton, which reaches to the foot of Pike's Peak, where the depot is located from which the cogwheel railway begins to ascend to the summit of Pike's Peak. All of the above three towns are connected by two lines of railway and street cars, also by five public streets. The city of Colorado Springs is so named on account of numerous mineral springs within a distance of from four to five miles in and about Maniton.

The springs are six in number: The Shoshone, or Sulphur spring; the Navajo, and the Maniton, whose waters strongly resemble Seltzer water, the Minneleoha Soda spring; the Ute and Little Chief, both iron springs. These springs are tastefully fitted up with pavilions and are all free to tourists. Very fine hotels are near by.

Pike's Peak is named after Major Pike, a U. S. Regular officer. Many years ago, he and his comrades tried to make the ascent, on foot, to the summit. The party made about two-thirds of the distance when they became exhausted and foot sore, and the depth of the snow, which was increasing with the altitude, compelled them, though reluctantly, to retrace their steps.

Afterwards the summit was explored by other parties, but to do honor to Major Pike, his name was retained.

From the foot of the Peak, at the depot, near the iron springs, to the summit thereof, the elevation is 7,525 feet, and the summit is 14,147 feet above sea-level.

The distance from the foot to the summit, by the cogwheel railway, is a few feet less than nine miles. The little train makes this distance in 1½ hours.

On July 20, 1900, the writer and his wife, were passengers on the cogwheel railway from the depot at Maniton, and in due time reached the summit of Pike's Peak. Here the rarity and lightness of the air is so great, that on leaving the car and walking over the rock passes, one feels

dizzy, and uncertain of step, causing a reeling to some extent. The air was very raw and chilly, and considerable snow was on the summit, so that the men used overcoats, and the ladies wore wraps to keep them comfortable.

The government maintains a signal station here. It is a large substantial one-story stone building.

There is an iron frame work 25 feet higher than the roof, with a platform, approached by iron steps. The tourists are permitted for a small fee, to climb to this platform, and use a large telescope. One can see the country for many miles. The city of Denver, 75 miles north, and Cripple Creek, 40 miles west, can be plainly seen, also many other towns and cities are visible from this point.

From this government building, the author sent to the office of the Hon. J. V. Wolfe, Land Commissioner, at Lincoln, Nebr., the following message "Wife and I on summit of Pikes Peak, all well," the distance is about 500 miles.

This message caused a great deal of interest to Mr. Wolfe and his office forces, coming as it did, not from a great eminence. It was published in the daily papers.

After being on the summit for a while, they found that their vision towards the valley below became more obscured; however, upon closer observation, it was found that it had become cloudy and that the dark clouds were actually below them. The sun was shining brightly, and clearly, on the summit.

Many years ago there was nothing but a bridle and foot path leading to the summit. In 1888 a good toll road was constructed from Cascade Canon. Passing several stations and points of unrivaled grandeur, and wonderful unobstructed views of the country beneath the tourist ascends further on, still with increasing interest, until he finds himself far above the clouds; and the summit is reached by carriage within six hours.

Some years ago a company built what is known as the Cog Wheel railway, from the depot near the Iron Springs to the summit.

The grade is in many places, from 20 to 30 degrees elevation; the rails are bolted down into solid rock, in order to keep them from slipping down grade. The drive wheels are supplied with cogs, the rails have similar cog work to fit the wheels. The locomotive and car are double braked, with strong stay chains, all of which is arranged to avoid accidents.

The locomotive is apparently a small affair, a dinky; but made very strong and compact.

In order to balance the weight and machinery, the hind wheels are twice the size of the fore ones, and are always kept down grade; consequently, in returning, the locomotive is backed down grade. Only

one passenger car is carried, which accommodates fifty persons. Four such trains are running continually.

In approaching Pike's Peak, the observer will notice a sort of division, or ring around the mountain knob.

This line is about 10,000 feet above sea level, and is known as the "Timber Line."

Below this line, there is considerable vegetation, such as, Wild mountain flowers, grasses, some scrubby pine, hemlock, and cedar.

Flies, worms, and other creeping animals are also found; but above that line there is no vegetation of any kind, not even a blade of grass or other herbage can be seen, no living creatures, such as were seen below that line, can be found,—no life.

All is dead, and inanimate and inanity, even one's breathing is affected, and the sound of the voice has changed to some extent.

On the summit of Pike's Peak, near the Government Signal Station Building, a lady by the name of O. Keefe is buried, whose grave has a large headstone with an inscription upon it. It is said that she was a correspondent for some eastern city paper, before her death and that she made a request to be interred on this elevated point. Not a handful of earth can be found within many miles. If none was brought up from the valley below, this lady was literally buried in the rock, and covered with the same material.

We will now proceed to give the reader a brief history of some of the interesting scenery at Manitou, and in and along the foot of the Rocky mountains, begining with "The Garden of the Gods."

The "Garden of the Gods" is a valley of wonders, easily accessible from Moniton, and other points, one of which is called the "Grand Gateway."

In this solitude, nature has perpetrated many strange freaks of sculpture, and of architecture, as if she were diverting herself, after the strain of the mighty mood, in which the mountains were brought forth, in the great pre-historical upheaval.

Here inanimate forms of stone supply quaint, and grotesque suggestions of life.

At the entrance to the Garden, enormous red sandrock carved by nature and pinnacled in the most fantastic manner, rise abruptly from the surface of the ground, to a height of between three and four hundred feet.

Between two of these giant forms, the carriage road enters, and here one will see the receding lines of hills and mountains, culminating in Pike's Peak.

The author and party hired a carriage team and driver, and were taken all over this interesting garden country. The time was well

spent, and notes were kept of all important scenery.

After their form the most striking feature of these grand pillars, is their color which glows with an intensity of pale red, unknown in any of the sandstone formations of the east. These inanimate forms have received appropriate designations. They are named after men, animals, and other things which these pillars may resemble in shape.

The writer will name a few of the most interesting figures inspected.

Balance Rock, Lodie's Face, Kissing Camels, Cathedral Spine, The Hogback, Siamese Twins, Needle Rock, American Eagle, Vulcou's Anvil, The Three Graces, Bear and Seal; The Lion, Mother Grundy, The Statue of liberty, and many other quaint and curious figures which space will not permit, to mention, which, once beheld, can never be forgotten.

The following description of these places by the Hon. William J. Bryan in his "Commoner," and the poem by William Allen Butler are particularly interesting and are inserted by their courtesy:

### FROM THE SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK

Colorado Springs, Colo., August 21—Fortunately for the gentleman who advised us to walk up Pike's Peak he was called home before we returned from the summit. He told us that the only real way to ascend the Peak was to start up in the evening, go as far as possible, stay out over night, and then finish the trip up in time to see the sunrise. We cheerfully admit that the sunrise is all that one could ask. But the walk up is another matter.

The architect of this department is no lightweight. His sedentary habits have made him shortwinded and tenderfooted. When a fellow is half-way up Pike's Peak he is about 7,000 feet above sea level, and the atmosphere at that elevation is about as thin as the average trust magnate's idea of charity. And it beats all how full of feet a fellow's shoes can get.

Colonel Zebulon Pike did not discover this peak. It was discovered several thousand years before Colonel Pike was born, but it so happened that it served as a guide to lead him out of the wilderness. Hence his name was given to the huge mountain. It is not recorded that Colonel Pike was so foolish as to foot his way to the top. We know a man who wouldn't do it again if the name was to be changed from Pike to his own. At Manitou they tell you it is about 7,000 feet to the top, but we know better. It is a thousand miles.

Nature is very fond of a joke now and then. That's what makes nature so enjoyable. In the Garden of the Gods nature has had many joke, and that is what makes the trip through the garden so enjoyable. By a great stretch of the imagination one is able to see images of birds and beasts in the outlines of the rocks when the guide calls your attention to them—but you have to stretch the imagination. The humorous part of it all is the seriousness with which the guide points the things out, and the exclamation of delight from the tourist who think they see what the guide tells them they see.

"On the right is Cathedral Rock," says the guide. "Note the wonderful likeness to the towering spires of some great cathedral."

And the tourist squeal with delight and exclaim:

"Oh, isn't it just to lovely; just like some great cathedral's spires!"

And it's dollars to doughnuts not a tourist in the party ever saw anything nearer a cathedral spire than the steeple on the local church at home. Then it is that Mother Nature laughs.

But there are wonderful sights in the Garden of the Gods. Nature has carved out curiosities that man can never imitate. Balanced Rock is a wonder. A huge rock is perched upon a smaller rock, and the point of contact is so small that it seems as if a child could push it over. Yet it has stood for untold ages. It happened to be harder than the rock around it, and when the water by the erosion wore the soft rock away it left this silent old reminder of a former age standing there. You pause to look at the wonder, and a nasallyvoiced photographer who has a shack near by begins pestering you to death to have your picture taken.

"Take home a picture of yourself leaning against this wonder of nature," he pleads.

About seven out of every ten succumb to the temptation. Since watching that photographer, the architect has been debating whether he would rather have his job or a block of Standard Oil Stock.

"Toadstool Park" is a part of the Garden of the Gods. Hundreds of rocks, many of them twenty or twenty-five feet high and exactly the shape of toadstools, stand up from the level plain inside the garden walls. They look the part too. The tourist has to look closely to make sure they are not real fungi.

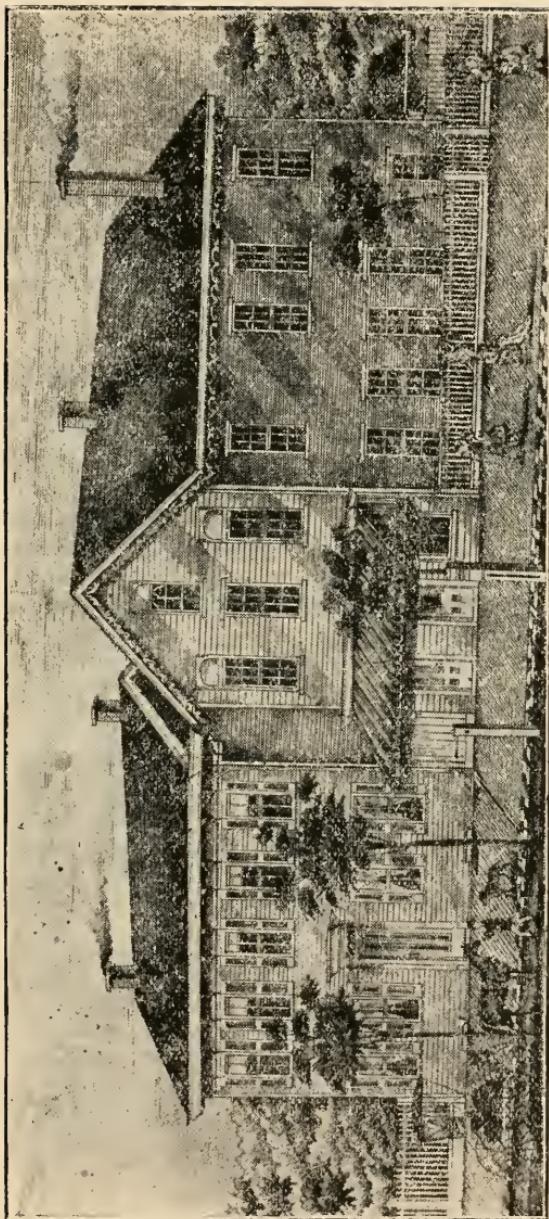
The garden itself covers many acres, and it is worth going hundreds of miles to see it. And it is the result of the action of water upon red and white limestone through untold millions of age.

The garden of the Gods is, I believe, the property of a great western railroad corporation, and is kept open free for the use of the public. The only thing one has to do to see the sights is to go there and look. But if you want to you can spend a lot of money. You can hire a guide, ride a burro and have your picture taken as often as you please. And just about the time you have paused long enough to get interested in some magnificent bit of scenery, a hungry eyed man will hop out of the bushes and insist on selling you a souvenir. After you have been in the garden for a half hour or so you expect to see a souvenir fiend appear from behind every stump, rock and clump of grass. And they have most persuasive ways, too.

Cheyenne canyon is another great scenic attraction. It is a rift in the mountain side, worn there by a dashing creek that has been racing down the mountain side for ages—long before Adam weakly succumbed to the blandishments of Eve. The tourist follows it in and out, here and there, and ever upward for miles, and every ten or fifteen yards has to dodge a seller of souvenirs. The seven falls are wonderful. The architect would give a whole lot to see a collection of souvenir sellers trying to shoot the seven falls in a canoe.

"But, after all, the grim old peak standing like a sentinel on the edge of the wide plain is the greatest attraction of all. It has a peculiar fascination for the visitor. You just can't rest contented until you have been to the top." And he who once sees the sunrise from the vantage point of the peak will never forget it. Colors that mortal painters have died vainly trying to catch. Flashing lights that no artist can ever hope to catch. And out of the great stillness that broods over all one seems to catch a whisper of the infinite. It really seems as if one stands a little closer to the Almighty when one looks outward and upward from one of these great mountains.

Pike's Peak isn't as high by several hundred feet as Gray's Peak, near Denver,



The Author, Aaron K. Gift and Wife's Residence, Middleburg, Pa.

See History of John Adam Gift, Chap. ii.



but Pike has had the best press agent, and the result is that the mountain climbers come here.

By the way, the street railway company here has a fine thing. You get on the car in Colorado Springs and before you are settled in your seat the conductor makes you dig up a nickel. Before you go any distance at all he comes back and says "fare."

"But I paid you a moment ago," you say.

"That was for Colorado Springs," he replies. "We are now in Colorado City."

So you dig up another nickel and then resume gazing out upon the cloud-tipped summit of the peak. Then the same conductor taps you on the shoulder again and says: "Fare, please."

"But I just paid you a nickel," you exclaim.

"Yes, but that was for Colorado City. We are now in Manitou," says the conductor.

So you dig up for the third time, and all inside of ten minutes. If a man had a license to burglarize banks he would not have any softer snap than this street railway line.

## THE GARDEN OF THE GODS.

WILLIAM ALLEN BUTLER

In "Rhymes of the Rockies."

Beneath the rocky peak that hides

In clouds its snow-flecked crest,  
Within these crimson crags abides

An Orient in the West.

These tints of flame, these myriad dyes,

This Eastern desert calm,  
Should catch the gleam of Syrian skies,  
Or shade of Egypt's palm.

As if to bar the dawn's first light

These ruby gates are hung;

As if from Sinai's frowning height  
These riven tablets flung.

But not the Orient's drowsy gaze,

Young Empire's opening lids

Greet these strange shapes, of earlier days  
Than Sphinx or Pyramids.

Here the New West its wealth unlocks,

And tears the veil aside,

Which hides the mystic glades and rocks  
The Red man deified.

This greensward, girt with tongues of flame,  
With spectral pillars strewn,

Not strangely did the savage name

A haunt of gods unknown.  
Hard by the gentle Manitou  
His healing fountains poured;  
Blood-red, against the cloudless blue,  
These storm-tossed Titans soared.

\* \* \* \* \*

With torrents wild and tempest blast,  
And fierce volcanic fires,  
In secret moulds has Nature cast  
Her monoliths and spires.

Their shadows linger where we tread,  
Their beauty fills the place;  
A broken shrine—its votaries fled—  
A spurned and vanished race.  
Untouched by Time the garden gleams,  
Unplucked the wild flower shines,  
And the scarred summit's rifted seams  
Are bright with glistening pines.

And still the guileless heart that waits  
At Nature's feet may find,  
Within the rosy, sun-lit gates,  
A hidden glory shrined.  
His presence feel to whom, in fear,  
Untaught, the savage prayed,  
And, listening in the garden, hear  
His voice, nor be afraid.

According to the Journal kept during our western tours, the following theory is advanced with reference to these many strange peaks of sculpture along the foot hills of the Rocky mountains, namely, that our western plains were at a prehistorical period covered with water as an

inland sea, and that through ages afterward, for some unaccountable reason in nature, the supply feeders were retarded, and during other ages, the water subsided and diminished, and finally, by evaporation dried up entirely, but left a deep and rich sediment in the bottom, which now composes our fertile prairies, soil containing all needed plant food, and that the foot hills of the Rocky mountains, before the water disappeared, were the western coast of this large sea, and that by erosion during the time this sea existed, and by the natural elements afterwards, the softer substance of the rock wore away, and that the more compact, solid and harder part of the rock strata remained, which stood in a perpendicular form, and had by nature acquired so many different inanimate shapes and forms of men and animals, and other representations as now seen.

There is another remarkable matter, viz: that the rock stratification in this locality is perpendicular, or nearly so, giving proof that these peculiar rock forms are the remains of the original rocks. The color in both is the same—a pale red.

Another strong theory that goes to prove that ages ago our western level prairies were covered by an inland sea, or great lake is, that after the water had subsided and evaporated to such an extent that the higher parts of the surface of the bottom were exposed, little outlets formed to drain the country, such as rivers, creeks and rivulets. Many of these dry and abandoned beds of ancient streams of water can be found and easily traced at this time. Many have high banks, and are bridged at public road crossings, yet no water is flowing. Buffalo creek, in Dawson county, Nebr., is an example of this kind.

The author in the same state, has traced the beds of such dry water courses for distances from fifteen to thirty miles, many being much longer. One great outlet, to chain this country, or state (Nebr.) still remains, viz: the great Platte river. Its average course is a little south from due east; its source is in the Rocky mountains; its outlet is at Platte's mouth, in the Missouri river, its average fall is six feet to the mile; its length through the state of Nebr. is a little over 400 miles.

The general slope of the country agrees with the course of the river,—a little south of due east.

More might be said upon this geological theory if time and space permitted, but the writer must hasten to give a few more interesting places.

The author has examined, in the vicinity of Pike's Peak, "The Cave of the Winds." Here a draft of wind is continually issuing from its mouth.

He has also examined gypsum beds, William's canon, Rainbow Falls and the Seven Falls, where the water descends 200 feet, but not all in one plunge. It is divided into seven falls, as indicated by its name. The

average descent each time is about 22 feet. Between these falls, the water runs in a horizontal way for several rods to the next fall, and so on. A flight of stairs, consisting of 250 steps, with banisters, is built for tourists to ascend and descend.

On top, near the first fall, a man is buried. It is said, that before his death, he selected this elevated place for his last resting place.

Here, in front of the lower fall, the author and his wife mounted on burrows, (very small ponies) and had their photographs taken, with their son, H. Alvin, standing in front. It is a very comical picture.

On August 2, 1900, the author and his wife, left the city of Colorado Springs, Colo., and came by train to the city of Denver, a distance of 75 miles. This city and vicinity, including its mining interests, has already been described. Remaining in this city several days, sightseeing. On Aug. 4th they took passage on the Chicago and Rock Island railroad, and reached the city of Lincoln, Nebr., Aug. 5th. They both found that this trip to the shady and cool retreats, and canons of the Rocky mountains, had done them much good.

On that day the writer resumed his work as Draughtsman in the office of the Land Commissioner, in the state capitol, at Lincoln, Nebr.

On April 8, 1901, his official term expired, and he retired; Mr. Alexander Schleyel taking his place under the newly elected Land Commissioner, G. D. Follmer.

On Sept. 13, 1901, the writer and his wife made a visit from Lincoln, Nebr., to Capt. J. H. Louis and family, in Harlan, Iowa. First Lieut. Louis was promoted to Capt. and transferred to Co. C., 74th Regt., Pa. Vol. Inf., Second Lieut. Gift, the author was promoted to First Lieut., Co. D., 74 Regt., Pa. Vol. Capt. Louis and the writer had not met since the close of the civil war, in 1865, a period of more than 36 years.

The author and his wife also visited Caleb Smith and family, at Avoca, in the same state. They were very welcome guests with both families.

On Sept. 21, 1901, they moved back to Lexington, Nebr., their old home. They remained here until March 4, and then left by train for Akron, Ohio, to visit Prof. J. H. App and wife, their daughter, Minerva J., and H. S. Stetler and wife and daughter Mary E. They arrived at their destination, March 5, 1902, and were warmly welcomed by their children. They remained in Akron, visiting Penna. friends, until April 14th, when they left by train on the Cleveland and Pittsburg division of the Penna Lines, for Middleburg, Pa., arriving at the old home, having been in the west nearly twelve years. All their relatives and other old friends seemed very glad to see them again, and assisted them in many kind and friendly ways.

To show that the author's services are still further appreciated, unsolicited on his part, his fellow citizens of the Borough of Middleburg,

Snyder county, Pa., at the Feb. election of 1906, elected him to the office of Justice of the Peace. He had filled this position years ago.

The author still does some light surveying, leveling and engineering in the valley near his home, but, due to his advanced age, he refrains from doing such work on the mountains and in the rough country, where the work would demand too much physical exertion.



Birds-eye-View of Part of Middleburg, County-seat of Snyder  
County, Pa.

See History of John Adam Gitt, chap. II.



# HISTORY OF JOHAN ADAM GIFT AND HIS POSTERITY

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## CHAPTER TWO

In 1750 Johan Adam, and his two brothers, Peter and Nicholas Gift, emigrated from Germany to America.

Johan Adam, settled in Weissenberg Township, Northampton county, (since the division in 1812, this Township is within the territory of Lehigh county, Pa.) In this latter county his two brothers also settled.

In September, 1754 a proprietary warrant was granted to Johan Adam Gift for twenty-five acres of land, also on Dec. 10, 1773, he procured a warrant for one hundred acres all located in Weissenberg Township. The only proprietary taxes that could be traced in that township were paid in 1772. 4£. 8s. The next taxes he was assessed with were in 1778, in Penn Township, Northumberland, now Snyder county, on a valuation of real estate of 485£.

The foregoing shows that he sold his real estate and that in about 1777, he, with his family migrated to Penn Township.

This section of country on the east, as well as for some distance on the west side of the Susquehanna River, was known as Shamokin. He settled in Middlecreek Valley, formerly Cumberland County, Pa. Sub-divisions have since been made and this territory fell within the boundary of Northumberland, then Union, and finally in 1855 within the boundary of the new county of Snyder, and Middleburg became the county seat.

Johan Adam Gift owned and settled here on a farm which was warranted and surveyed in the name of Richard Tea, on the left or north bank of Middlecreek, about three miles west of where Middleburg is now located, and now within the boundary of Franklin Township. This farm then contained 250 acres. Afterwards he conveyed this farm to his son Anthony.

In 1793, Johan Adam, bought another farm, the main part of which was surveyed Oct. 10, 1755, in pursuance of a warrant dated Feb. 10, 1755, to Abraham, David and Samuel Hurr, containing 225 acres. This farm is located on the south or right bank of Middlecreek, Franklin

Township, a quarter of a mile west of where Paxtonville now stands. This second farm he conveyed by deed to his youngest son Jeremiah. This farm remained in the Gift family, the posterity of John Adam, for one hundred years. It has since been sub-divided, the principal part of which is now (1907) owned by William A. Mitchell. This is the birth place of the writer of this history, A. K. Gift, son of John Gift, grandson of Jeremiah and great-grandson of Johan (John) Adam.

A few years ago it was discovered that an extensive portion of this original "Jeremiah Gift tract" is underlaid with a red shale of a very superior quality for brick-making purposes.

Mr. W. W. Swengel of Paxtonville, as early as 1904, advocated the erection of a brick plant upon said premises. Almost entirely unaided, this practical young man, by dint of his own personal effort and untiring energy, finally interested a number of moneyed men. A company known as the "Sunbury Brick Company" was organized in 1907, with a capital of \$100,000 and located its plant on this farm at Paxtonville, Pa.

In the same year this company began the erection of a plant, which as an industrial establishment, stands now, without equal in Snyder county, and in equipment is the peer of any brick concern within the state of Pennsylvania.

The shale pits are a few hundred yards south of the plant, from which the material is dug by means of a modern steam shovel, dumped upon electric tram-cars and transferred to the clay-bins. From there it is carried by gravity into the largest size Champion Roll Crusher, thence to the machine building. Here there is an equipment of dry pans for grinding the shale to powder. It is then passed over piano wire screens to the different brick machinery.

There are two Corliss engines of enormous horsepower to operate the ponderous machinery. There are also two dynamos; one to generate electric power; the other, for electric lighting. The boiler house contains three large boilers.

There are a number of fire-proof dry-kilns, in which bricks may be dried in all weathers and at all seasons. The capacity is about 100,000 bricks per day. The kilns are of the "Younglren Continuous Gas" type, to which there are ten chambers, holding 110,000 bricks each. In connection there is a gas plant, etc.

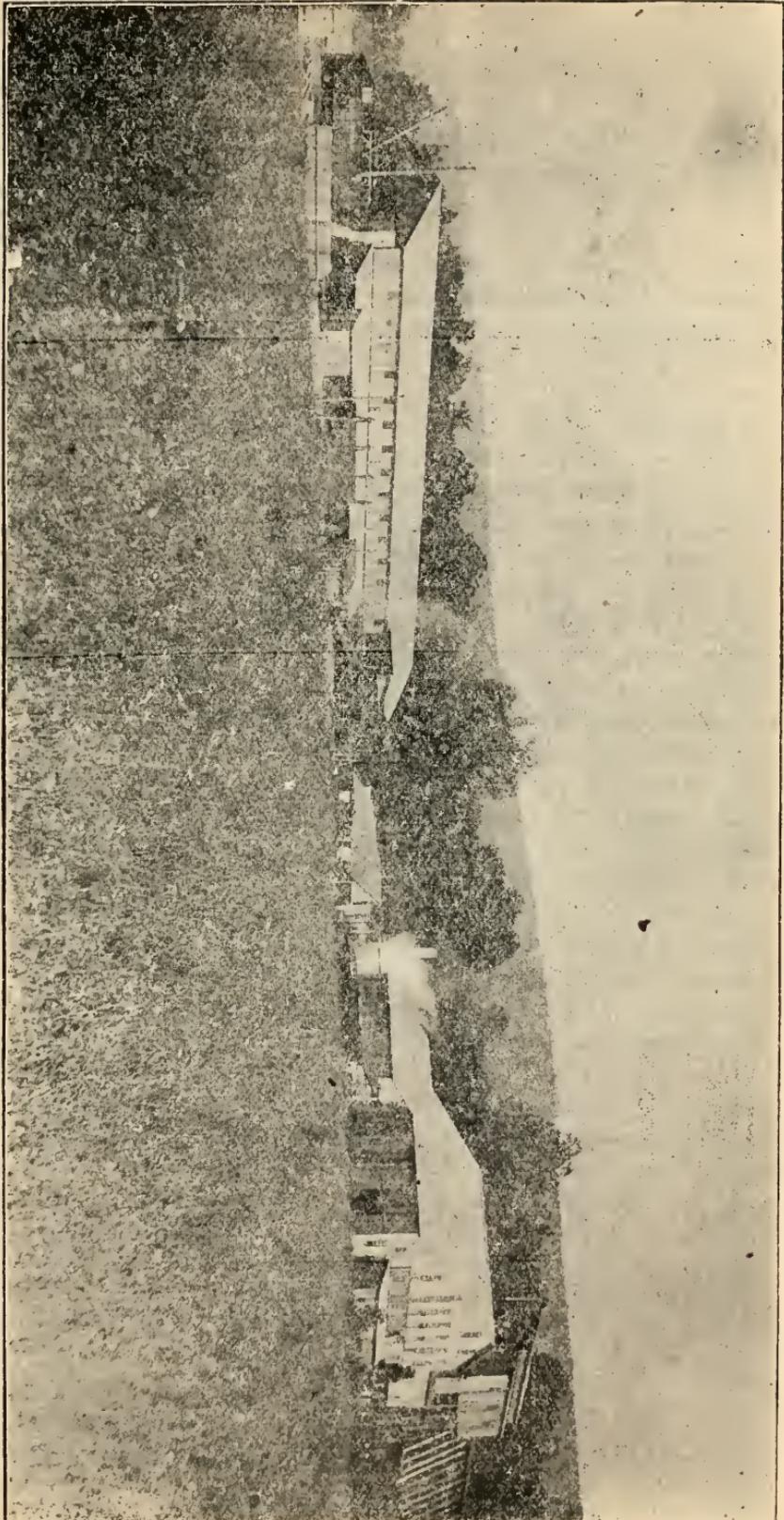
The product is strictly high-class throughout and consists of four varieties, namely: dry-pressed brick, wire-cut brick, facing brick and sewer brick.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has constructed several special sidings for the exclusive use of this plant.

The present officers of the company are: W. W. Swengel, Promoter and General Manager; Supt., J. Frank Francis; Pres., Judge Clinton R.

The Sunbury Brick Plant, Located 2 1-2 Miles West of Middleburg.

See John Adam Gift History, chap. II.





Savidge; Vice Pres., Rev. C. T. Aikens; Secretary, A. W. Day; Treasurer, George J. Schoch; Directors, Clinton R. Savidge, C. T. Aikens, Joseph Wilhour, David Wilhour, J. A. Stroub, A. C. Savidge and W. W. Swengel.

John Adam Gift and his beloved wife, Anna Catharine, were blessed with the following children: The sons were Jacob, Anthony and Jeremiah, the daughters were Eleanor, Mary, Gertrude and Eve the youngest, who was accidentally killed. Particulars of this accident will appear elsewhere in this history.

Jacob the eldest son of John Adam Gift, and Anna Catharine his wife, was born in Weissenburg, Township, Northampton now Lehigh, County, Pa. He was killed by the Indians, at Fort Freeland, Pa. in 1779. The occurrence of his sad death was related to the writer, A. K. Gift, when a young boy, by his grand father, Jeremiah Gift, who was then a boy six years of age when his brother Jacob was killed.

The Militia for home defence were drawn in classes and regularly mustered into service for the colonial defense, and to guard the settlers from Indian depredations. Jacob had been drawn and served a tour in the eastern part of the state while they lived in Weissenburg Township now Lehigh County, Pa. The lot, in 1779, fell upon Johan Adam, the father. Jacob insisted on serving in his stead, saying, he was used to a soldier's life and hardships. Michael Lepley and a Mr. Herrold from the same neighborhood, were drawn at the same time. They joined their commands then stationed at Fort Freeland, Pa., near which lived a family named McKnight who owned a farm one and one-half miles away. But at the time the McKnight family lived inside the Fort for protection, same as many other families did. The McKnights had cows on their farm, and whenever they wanted to go and milk, they secured guards out of the garrison to protect them from and to the fort. The guards at this time consisted of fourteen soldiers among whom were Gift, Lepley, Herrold, the two McKnights, father and son. The cows were driven into a pen, and while milking, the men were surprised by a party of about thirty Indians, who lay ambush. When the Indians fired upon them, the soldiers were so completely surprised that they could make very little resistance. Lepley with others, and old Mr. McKnlight were killed in the begining of the fight. Herrold ran for the fort and as he ran along a field which sloped toward, the fort, the soldiers in the fort heard the report of a rifle, and saw him fall, and an Indian scalped him. Jacob Gift also tried to make his escape, but was overtaken. When the pursing soldiers from the fort came up, they found evidence of a hard fight; the ground was bloody, his rifle broken in pieces, and he was tomahawed and scalped. He had sold his life as deadly as possible, so that his country might live for his posterity.

Young McKnight was the only one who escaped with his life to tell the sad tale. He also ran for the fort, and as he jumped over Warrior Run, clearing twelve feet from bank to bank, a tomahawk struck the top rail of the fence just after he cleared it. He was pursued by an Indian to this place.

Upon Jacob Gift's father, the stroke fell heavily. He said, "It was my lot to go but my son went and gave his life for mine, but it was God's will—It was all for sweet liberty." Or by his high German, he said, "Es war mein loos zu gehen auber mein sohn ging und gab sein laben fur mein laben, auber es war Gottes willen, und alles fur die susse freiheit." Sometime after this massacre Johan Adam, the father of Jacob, made a journey to the fort. Tradition has it, that it was for the purpose of bringing his son's body home for a christian burial, but upon examination, it was found impossible to identify his son's body from the rest of the victims, because they had all been buried in one trench near the fort in a promiscuous way.

### THOSE EARLY DAYS.

Alas! Alas! this land of ours,  
Is full of mystic lore.  
We dream not of the trials they had  
Those pioneers of yore.  
The incidents of early time,  
We like to read them o'er,  
Yet think we not between the lines  
That we might read still more.  
  
The half of all has ne'er been told  
Of trials, pain and woe,  
That generations past and gone  
Have suffered long ago.  
The Red men skulked about the plain  
The White men there to slay,  
A thing that now is past and gone  
In this our modern day.  
  
It was a time that tried men's souls,  
Among the Reds to dwell,  
They tomahawked the Whites each day—  
A story sad to tell.  
Persistent effort won at last,  
But blood the price did pay.  
And now the dangers, they are o'er—  
The dangers of that day.  
  
The grandest souvenirs we have,  
Are memories of the brave,  
Who sleep beneath the silent sod  
In many an unmarked grave.  
The blood that drenched this land of ours  
Was never shed in vain.  
The Red men here no longer roam  
And claim this large domain.

By William Romig.

Fort Freeland was built and stockaded on the farm of Jacob Freeland, in 1778, near the stream, well known as the Warrior Run, in Northumberland County, Pa. The farm is now, in 1906, owned by Enoch Everitt of Watsontown, Pa., which is about twenty-five miles up the West Branch of the Susquehanna river from the Borough of Northumberland, then called, "Pint Stadt" for Pointtown, located at the point of the confluence of the north and west branches of that river. To prove that the foregoing narrative is well founded, the writer has gleaned from John Blair Linn's Annals of Buffalo Valley, page 170, as follows: "April 26, 1769, Michael Lepley of Penn's Township, aged 41 years, was killed at Fort Freeland. Jacob Speese, in a certificate dated the 26th of June, 1786, states that he was stationed there with a party of militia. He was a lieutenant in command, and on the request of Mr. McKnight he sent a guard to go with him to his plantation a short distance from the fort to milk the cows. Michael Lepley left a widow, Mary A., and some children. She drew a pension for many years. There are still some of the descendants of Michael Lepley living in the western part of Snyder and eastern end of Mifflin counties, Pa. Catharine Lepley, a niece of Michael, the revolutionary soldier, was married to Henry Kern, Sr., who made two trips to Germany, and died in Seneca County, Ohio, in 1835, at the home of his brother, Peter, (see history of the Kern family.)

Johan Adam Gift died at a ripe old age. His beloved wife, Anna Catharine, must have preceded him to the spirit world. We believe this for the reason that he signed deeds, alone, for years before his death. Tradition says they are buried in the cemetery at Christ's church, more familiarly known as Hassinger's church, two miles west from Middleburg, Pa. Here their ashes rest in unmarked graves, but these level spots can not speak, hence their history is lost in oblivion. This burial ground is the oldest in this part of Pennsylvania.

Anthony Gift, second son of Johan Adam was also born in Weissenburg Township, now Lehigh Co. Pa. He lived on the farm bought from his father, located on the left bank of Middlecreek, now in Franklin township, containing two hundred and fifty acres more or less as already stated. He married Margaret Schwengel (familiarly called "Grate".) She was a relative of Michael Schwengel, deceased. Some of whose descendants are still residing in this part of the state and now spell their name "Swengle."

Anthony Gift died in about 1830, aged sixty five years. His wife Margaret, preceded him. She died May 6, 1823, at the age of fifty-two years. Both are burried in the old Hassinger's Cemetery.

Anthony had one son, John Jacob, (usually called Yacob.) and one daughter, Sophia Catharine. Before his death Anthony conveyed his farm to his only son, Jacob (as we call him hereafter.) Jacob married

Elizabeth Royer, a daughter of Johan George Royer son of Christopher Royer, who in 1748 came from the Rhine Pfattz, south Germany. Jacob and Elizabeth had five sons and four daughters. The sons were John, Michael, Isaac, Levi and Henry. The daughters were Amelia, Elizabeth, Mary and Lovina.

John Gift, oldest son of Jacob, married Mary Broabst in Union now Snyder County, Pa. She was a sister of Isaac Broabst, who died in Stephenson County, Ill. In 1845, John Gift with his family and other friends, emigrated by means of wagon teams to Stephenson county, Illinois. The time required to make this long trip in such a slow way was about six weeks.

During this time they had to endure many hardships and privations.

After their arrival in that county and state, he bought a farm, now owned by Levi Market, and settled on it. After retiring, he lived in his home in the town of Davis, Ill.

His wife, Mary, died at the age of 24 years. For his second wife he married widow Katharine Butts whose maiden name was Eyer, she was born in Northampton County, Penna. February 11. 1816, and died at Davis, Ill. December 6, 1907.

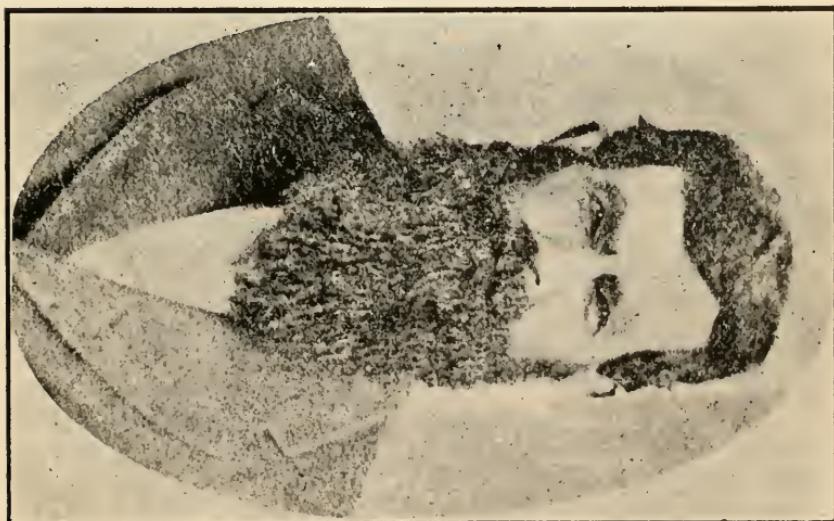
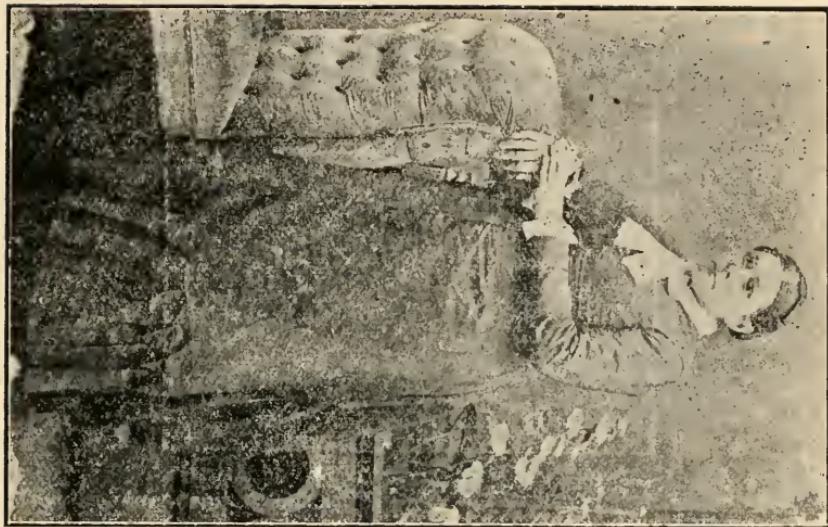
John Gift died at Davis, Ill. in 1882, aged nearly 69 years. He and his wife Katharine are burried at Davis, Ill. His children are Chas. M. Gift, married Miss Jennie Van Nest. He dieg at his home in Davis, Ill. Sept. 1900, aged 62 years. They had eight children. Corson and Cora twins; Thurgry, Elsie, Birdie, John R., and Josie and Jessie, Corson married Gusto Montifeldts and lives at Duront, Ill.; Cora, Mrs. E. J. Losy, died June 1, 1896, at her home in Rockford, Ill.; Thurgry, Mrs. D. E. Bryan, lives at Waterville, Kans., has one daughter, (Maud;) Elsie, Mrs. Langestine of Freeport, Ill., has four boys, namely: Glen, Robbie, Bee, and Chester.

Birdie, Mrs. Frank Moyer, residing at Beloit, Wis.; John R., aged 35 years, resides at Freeport, Ill.

In 1902 he married Miss Eva Keeler, they have one son named Keeler Gift, now aged 2 years.

Dr. John R. Gift is a very sucessful practising dentist in the city of Freeport, Ill; Robert P. Gift, seeond son of John, married Miss Sarah Hill, residing at Cohasset, Minnesota, had one son and one daughter namely: Robert Jr. Sadie.

Robert was a veteran soldier during the Civil War, serving four years, the last two years of which, he served as captain, in a company of an Illinois Regiment. The writer is unable to give company and number of Regiment. He was honorably discharged in 1865 at the end of the war. Elmira only daughter of John Gift, married Wallace Potter. They reside at Shellrock, Iowa. Their issue was three daughters



Isaac Gift and Wife, Eveline, Nee Overmyer, of Laqua, Cal.  
See John Adam Gift Branch, chap. II.



and one son, Hebborn the son is a cashier in a bank at Normal, Illinois,

Michael Gift, second son of Jacob, in 1840 emigrated with the family of John Kleckner and other friends to Stephenson county, Ill. In those early days there were no such railroad facilities as now, consequently the more slow mode of travel was adopted. It was by means of wagon teams. This in our modern day would be called "traveling by the gypsy route."

Soon after their arrival he bought government land and improved it.

In 1843, Michael married Miss Annie E. Kleckner. She was the only daughter of John Kleckner, who settled with him in the same county.

Michael Gift died Feb. 12, 1894, aged 78 years. His wife Annie E., died Sept. 7, 1901, aged 80 years. They had four children, William H. Gift, married Miss Catherine E. Miller. They have two children, John F. and Etta May. They reside at Sheldon, Iowa.

George T. Gift married Miss Lizzie A. Bloom, a daughter of Michael Bloom. George T. and Lizzie, his wife, reside on their farm near Orangeville, Ill. They had four children, Wesley P., who married Miss Mary Milligan; Thirza A., who died May 27, 1890; Harrison M., who died July 2, 1899, and a daughter, Verna M. Gift.

Mary E., the only daughter of Michael Gift and Annie E., his wife, on Jan. 28, 1869, married Andrew Potts, who died on Feb. 8, 1881, aged 43 years. His widow, Mary E., on Sept. 17, 1882, married Samuel Bobb. They reside at Orangeville, Ill. Their issue was one son, Ammon B, and one daughter, Annie E.

Comrade Andrew Potts' military record is as follows: He was a member of Company K., Second Regiment, Illinois Artillery Volunteers. He was honorably discharged on the 14th day of July, 1865.

Isaac Gift, third son of Jacob, in 1840 with others emigrated to Stephenson county, Ill.

In 1846 Isaac married Miss Eveline Overmyer. They emigrated to Humboldt county, California, and finally settled at Iaqua, a town thirty miles from the city of Eureka, at Humboldt Bay. At Iaqua Isaac bought considerable timber and grazing land, which he improved and established a stock and fruit raising business and succeeded well.

On May 20, 1881, he died aged nearly 60 years. His wife Eveline, died March 26, 1902, aged 76 years. They had six sons and one daughter. The sons were Albert, Allen, Jr., Julius S., Robert F., John H. and an only daughter, Sarah T.

Albert Gift, in July 1889, married Nettie Wallace. They had one daughter, "Della." In 1900 she married Ed. Knouss. In 1888 Nettie, wife of Albert Gift, died. He now has his home with his daughter, Della, Mrs. Knouss, resides at Red Bluff, California, but is employed at Hobart Mills, California.

John H. Gift, on Nov. 25, 1900, married Anna Cynthia Jenett.

Their children are George Freemont, Harry Edison and Leland Wesley, who died March 22, 1905. John H. Gift and his brother, George L. Gift, own and reside on the old Gift homestead and run an extensive cattle ranch and fruit orchards.

Allen J. Gift has his home with his brother, John H. Gift. Julius J. Gift works in the lumber mills at Eureka, California. Robert F., resides in the state of Washington. Sarah L., only daughter of Isaac and Eveline Gift, on October 31, 1889 married John J. Russell. Their issue was two daughters, Bessie Eveline and Jessie. On Dec. 3, 1893, during confinement both the mother, Sarah L., and her infant baby died. It is known that the Gift family in Humboldt county, Cal., are honest, upright citizens.

Levi Gift, fourth son of Jacob and Elizabeth Gift, in his younger years learned the blacksmith trade. He married Matilda Fees then in Union, now Snyder Co. They lived on their farm in Decatur Township, Mifflin County, Pa., where he died May 27, 1888, aged 65 years. His widow, Matilda, lived on the old homestead with her son Robert. She died Feb. 16, 1895, aged 71 years, both are interred in the Kelley Presbyterian cemetery.

They had two sons, the eldest, Ammon E. Gift, after attending the Township Free Schools, and other educational institutions, entered the Susquehanna University, formerly known as Missionary Institute, located at Selinsgrove, Pa. This institution of learning is flourishing under the supervision of the Lutheran church. Here Rev. Gift graduated and became a Lutheran minister, after which he did some missionary work, and then located at Rochester, Ind. Here for a number of years he served three charges.

He married Miss Julia Wentzel, both he and his wife have since died, leaving one child, a son, who survives them.

Robert, second son of Levi Gift, owns and resides on his father's former farm, the old homestead, in Decatur Township, Mifflin County, Penna. He is engaged in farming and stock raising.

Henry Gift, fifth son of Jacob and Elizabeth Gift, in about 1845 emigrated with others to Stephenson County, Ill.

They traveled by means of wagon teams. On the way, while his system was greatly overheated, they came to a fine spring of water, he drank too much of the cold fluid, and it is said from that day his health was affected. He remained with his friends in Stephenson Co., Ill., until about 1848, when he returned to Pennsylvania. Here he made his home with his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Pile near Richfield, Juniata County, Pa. He died Sept. 8, 1852, aged 26 years.

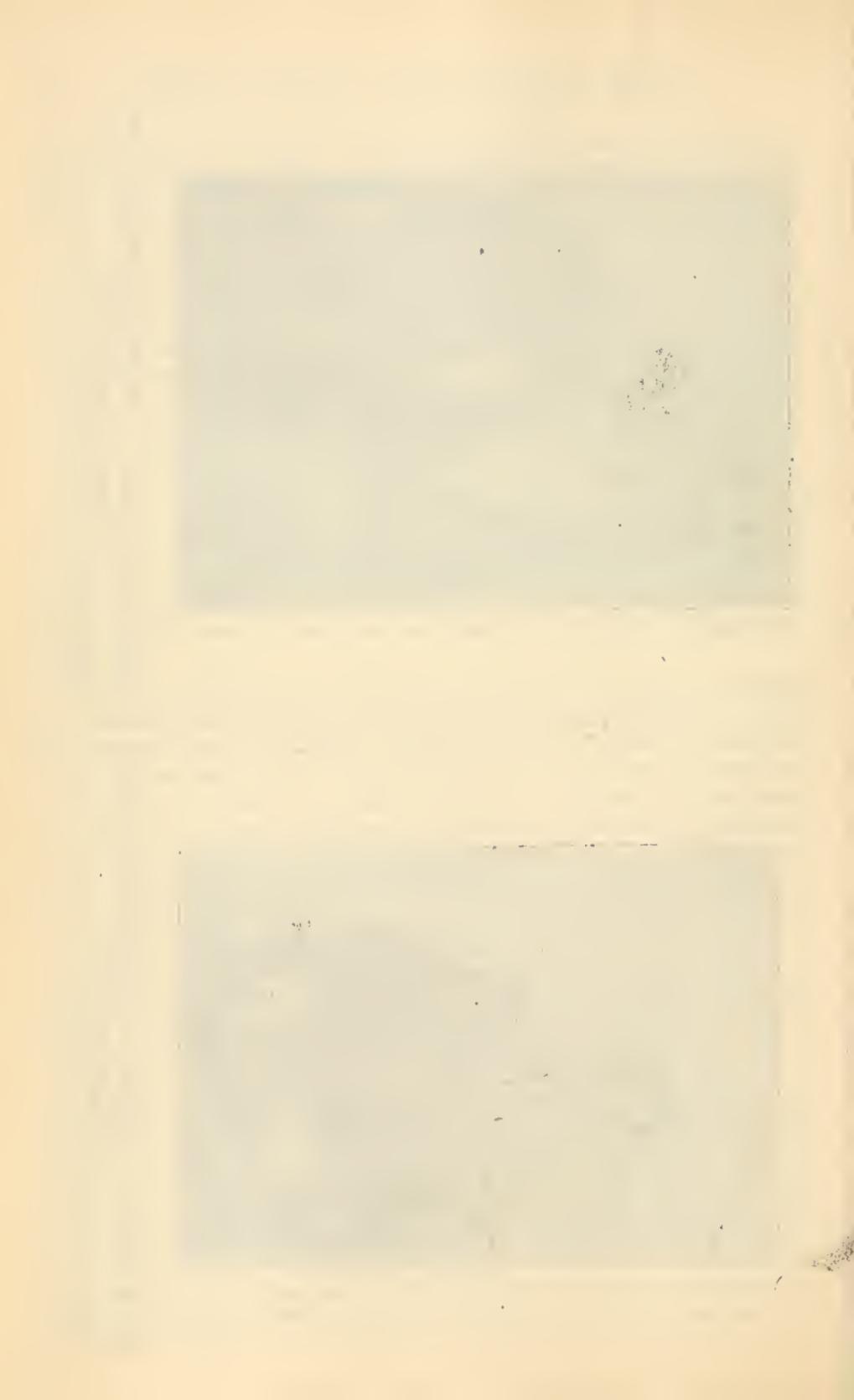
He is buried in Hassinger's old cemetery, two miles west of Middleburg. Henry never fully recovered his health after being so effected on his western trip.



Michael Gift and Annie E., His Wife, nee Kleckner. Both  
Died at Orangeville, Ill.  
See History of John Adam Gift, chap. II.



George T. Gift, son of Michael and Annie E. Gift, his wife, at  
Orangeville, Illinois,  
See History of John Adam Gift, Chap. II.



Amelia, eldest daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Gift, was born Dec. 14, 1817, and died Dec. 12, 1823, aged nearly 6 years. She also is buried in Hassinger's old cemetery.

Elizabeth, second daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Gift, was first married to John Houtz, who died in about 1837 in Perry County, Pa., and is buried there. Age and dates were not obtainable. Their issue was two sons, Levi and Jackson.

Levi, the eldest son, married Mary Dressler. They emigrated to Dodge County, Nebr. Their children were a son, Ammon, and a daughter, Amelia. Several children died young.

Levi Houtz died April 1, 1900, near Hooper, Nebr., aged 66 years. His widow, Mary, lives with her married daughter, Amelia.

Jackson, second son of John and Elizabeth Houtz, married Miss Mary A., daughter of Christian Shellenberger. They reside in Richfield, Juniata County, Pa.

Their issue was two sons and one daughter. John L. Houtz, the eldest son, died in April, 1889, aged 19 years.

Wilson L., second son, married Miss Esther Weikel. He learned the Blacksmith trade, and runs a shop near his residence in Richfield, Pa.

Annie E., the only daughter of Jackson and Mary A., his wife, married William Schiegel. They reside at East Salem, Juniata County, Pa., where he follows the business of black and tin-smithing.

Widow Elizabeth Houtz (nee Gift) some years after the death of her husband, John Houtz, married Jacob Pile, residing near Richfield, Pa. She died June 4, 1883, aged 70 years. She is buried in the cemetery of the Mennonite church, west from Richfield, Juniata Co., Pa.

Mary Anna, third daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Gift married Charles T. Kleckner in Union, now Snyder County, Pa. Charles was a son of John Kleckner. In 1840, John and Charles, and other friends emigrated by means of wagon teams to Stephenson Co., Ill. They settled on government land, already purchased by the father, John, on a previous trip to that far western county, as known at that time.

In 1878, the writer of this history and wife, made a trip to Stephenson County, Ill., to visit relatives. It was there that Charles Kleckner and Mary Anna, his wife, related they were six weeks on the road during their emigration tour. Most of the time, during the nights they were compelled to camp out in the open air. The wagons were loaded with goods, so that very few could find room to sleep on the wagons, and that they had to endure many hardships and privations. They brought cattle along from Penna., which gave them much annoyance.

Among their heavier teams, they used a strong two horse covered spring-wagon, in which they carried their bread, meat, flour, etc. Whenever the bread was nearly exhausted, and they could spy along

the road a bake-oven of the old Dutch kind, one of the men, and two of the women would stop, get privilege to do their baking, then hurry after the caravan again which could not move fast. Charles T. Kleckner and Mary Anna, his wife, had ten children, three of whom died in infancy, to wit: John Jacob, Mary Elizabeth, and Ellen Jane, the seven others are named as follows: Dr. David H. Kleckner, the eldest son of Charles T. and Mary Anna, was born in Union now Snyder County, Pa. on Feb. 17 1840, this was shortly before they emigrated to Ill. He married Mary Zimmerman. He died Aug. 29, 1884, aged 44 years. His wife, Mary, died May 13, 1904 aged 66 years. They are buried in the Cemetery at Beam's Chapel.

Prof. Isaac F. Kleckner, married Emma C. Robison. He died at Sioux City, Iowa, on March 4, 1891, aged 48 years, his wife Emma still survives him, and resides in Sioux City.

Comrade Isaac F. Kleckner enlisted in the Union Army in 1861, in Co. B, 46th Illinois Inf. Vol. In the battle fought on April 6 and 7 1862, at Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing, he was badly wounded in the left arm, in consequence the limb amputated. He was honorably discharged, but was unable to longer perform manual labor. His desire was afterwards aroused to gain a good education. He went to study in the State Normal University of Illinois from which he graduated with honor, in the class of 1869. Afterwards he was elected to the office of Superintendent of the schools of Stephenson Co., Ill. He filled this office for four years. Afterwards in the same county, he was elected county clerk. He was again re-elected and served as such for nine years.

In 1887, he removed to Sioux City, Iowa. Here he was elected Vice President of the Ballaw State Banking Company. This office he held to the time of his death, already given. George A. Kleckner married Clarissa Martin. They reside at Armour, South Dakota.

Phares O. Kleckner married Flora B. Martin. They reside in Freeport, Ill.

Prof. Martin E. Kleckner married Anna Good, a daughter of Dr. George Good, dece'd, who was formerly president of the Heidelberg University of Tiffin, Ohio. Here Martin graduated and holds the chair of Natural Science, and resides in Tiffin.

Sarah A. Kleckner married A. J. Goodrich. They reside at Rockton, Ill. Her husband died Nov. 3, 1903, aged 59 years. He is buried at Felt's cemetery.

Emma C. Kleckner married Frank P. Cross.

Mary Anna, mother of the above named sons and daughters, was a fine and intelligent lady. She died very suddenly on March 26, 1884, aged nearly 64 years.

Afterwards for his second wife, Charles T. married a widow, Mrs. Jane Reed Chambers. She still survives him. He died on July 11, 1901, aged 82 years and 6 months. He was an honest and respected citizen, was Superintendent of his Sunday school for a number of years. Both he and his first wife, Mary Anna, are buried in the cemetery at Beam's chapel.

For want of the proper data the writer was not able to describe the family of Charles T. Kleckner and Mary Anna, his wife, into fifth generation commencing and including Anthony, the grandfather of Mary Anna, only that at present (1906) there are 18 grandchildren, living in five different states, who are now the great-great-grandchildren of Anthony Gift, who was the son of Johan Adam who came from Germany with his two brothers, Peter and Nicholas in 1750.

Lavina, the fourth and youngest daughter of Jacob Gift married Zeno Fees, then in Union, now Snyder Co., Pa. For many years they owned and occupied a farm in Decatur Township, Mifflin Co., Pa. They sold this real estate and purchased a farm in or near the borough of Lewistown, Mifflin Co., Pa., also a well improved homestead in the said borough, which they occupied.

Zeno Fees died May 8, 1880, aged 65 years. His wife, Lavina, died Oct. 16, 1895, aged 73 years. They are both buried in the Episcopal cemetery at Lewistown, Pa. They were honest, and respected by all who knew them. Their issue was an only daughter, Amelia. She married Johnson Muthersbaugh. They also had one child, a daughter, named Verna. She married W. L. Lind, and they are now (1906) residing in the city of Philadelphia.

Amelia, Mrs. Muthersbaugh, died May 10, 1898, aged nearly 53 years; she also is buried in the Episcopal cemetery at Lewistown, Pa.

For his second wife, Mr. Muthersbaugh married Miss Margaret Miller. They reside at Lewistown, Pa.

Sophia Catherine Gift, the only daughter of Anthony Gift, married Solomon Klose. They lived on their farm in Beaver Township, formerly Union, now Snyder county, Pa., not far from what was known for many years as "Royer's Bridge" crossing Middlecreek.

Solomon Klose was born March 12, 1786, and died Aug. 10, 1852, aged 66 years.

His wife, Sophia Catherine, was born Sept. 18, 1790, and died May 20, 1852, aged 61 years and 8 months.

They are both interred in the Hassinger's old cemetery. Tombstones mark their resting places.

The writer of these sketches, when a boy saw both Solomon Klose and Sophia, his wife. She was then a lovely, good hearted and social old lady.

Solomon and Sophia Catharine, his wife, had two sons and eight daughters.

Jacob Klose, eldest son, for his first wife, married Miss Leah Hassinger, a daughter of Daniel Hassinger, formerly owner of Hassinger's grist and sawmills and farms connected therewith in Beaver Township.

Jacob Klose and Leah, his wife, had one son and two daughters.

Aaron Klose, the son, married Miss Sophia Walter, a daughter of Abraham Walter. Aaron owns several farms near the borough of Mifflinburg, Union Co., Pa., but has retired and resides in said borough. Their issue was one son and two daughters.

William, the son, is a minister, and resides in Iowa City, Iowa.

Harriet Alice, eldest daughter, married S. I. Bingaman. They reside in Union Co., Pa.

Anna J., second daughter of Aaron Klose, was married to Harry M. Hoffman, druggist. They reside in Lewisburg, Pa.

Sophia, eldest daughter of Jacob Klose, married Longinus Walter. They have two sons, Ammon and Lewis.

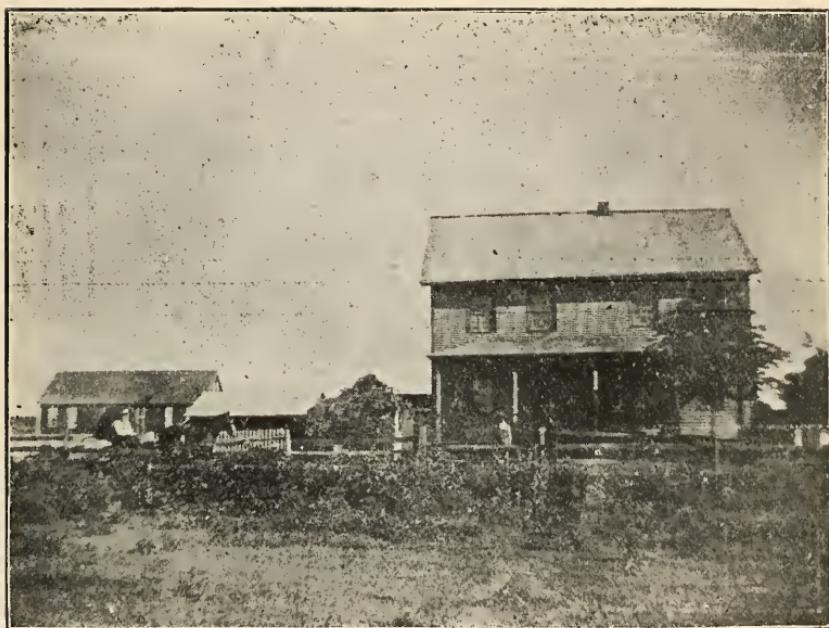
Harriet, second daughter, died Sept. 27, 1857, aged 16 years.

Leah, first wife of Jacob Klose, died April 20, 1842, aged 24 years and 10 months. Afterwards he married Miss Sarah Musser. Their issue was six sons, to wit: Solomon, John, Lewis, Levi, Jacob and Jeremiah. This last named son left home in spring of 1886, and went to San Francisco, Cal., where he was for a while employed as a newsboy on some prominent railroad, afterwards he quit that business and shipped for Australia. In spite of strenuous efforts made by his parents and other friends in Pennsylvania nothing has since been heard of him. It is now, 1906, generally believed he is not living.

Jacob Klose died at his home on May 1, 1891, aged 79 years, 5 months and 21 days. He is buried in the cemetery at Mifflinburg, Pa., where also is buried his second wife, Sarah, who died Sept. 5, 1884, aged 65 years, 3 months and 29 days.

A list of the children of Jacob Klose and his second wife, nee Musser, who died is as follows: Lydia died June 4, 1858, aged 5 years; Mary B., died Oct. 25, 1863, aged nearly 3 years; Lizzie was born Sept. 21, 1863, was married to David Walter, who died. Afterwards she married Christopher Seebold. She died Aug. 18, 1890, aged 26 years, 10 months and 27 days.

Reuben Klose, youngest son of Solomon and Sophia Catherine, his wife, married Miss Amelia Kline, she was a daughter of Peter Kline, who resided and died at Beavertown, Pa. Reuben and his wife lived on the Solomon Klose homestead, in Beaver Township, two miles east from Beavertown, Pa., now owned by Aaron Hassinger. Mr. Klose sold out and moved to Michigan. During the Civil war he enlisted in an Ohio Company and Regiment and was honorably discharged. Sometime after the war closed he went to an Ohio Soldiers' Home, where he remained for a while, finally he died at Flowerfield, Mich.



**Homestead Buildings and Late Residence of Anthony and  
His Son Jacob Gift, in Franklin Twp., Snyder Co., Pa.**

See John Adam Gift History, chap. II.



The writer of this history having been a Civil war soldier himself, feels it his duty to do justice to all veterans, but in Comrade Klose's case dates and other particulars were not obtainable.

The daughters of Solomon Klose and Sophia C., his wife, were as follows: Sarah, eldest daughter, was born Jan. 12, 1809. She was married to Daniel Bubb, (now spelled Bobb) who was born April 10, 1807 in Union, now Snyder County, Pa. They first lived near the old Solomon Klose homestead, Beaver Township.

In 1847, they with other friends, by means of wagon teams emigrated to Stephenson Co., Ill. During this long and slow journey they endured many hardships and privations. They settled down and grew up with the country.

Mr. Bobb (Bubb) died May 1, 1893, aged 86 years and 21 days. Sarah, his wife, died April 9, 1892, aged 83 years, 2 months and 26 days. Their issue was as follows: Mary, born May 15, 1828; Aaron, born March 7, 1830; Libia, born Feb. 25, 1832; Levi, born Oct. 21, 1837; Joseph, born March 16, 1841, he died Oct. 24, 1864, aged 23 years and 7 months; Samuel, born Oct. 7, 1843 and Amelia, born Nov. 22, 1845.

Samuel, the last named son of Daniel Bobb, on Sept. 17, 1882 married Mary E. Potts, widow of Andrew Potts, deceased. They reside in their home in Orangeville, Stephenson Co., Ill. [Note—For a further description of Samuel Bobb's family see history of Michael Gift.]

Sophia, second daughter of Solomon Klose and wife, was born June 9, 1810. She was married to Joseph Hassinger, who was born March 2, 1815. He was a son of Daniel Hassinger. Joseph Hassinger owned a large farm, a grist mill, and saw mill in what is now Adams Township.

They had ten children as follows: Aaron, born May 29, 1835, married Nancy Maurer; Henry, born Dec. 3, 1836, married Matilda Helfrick; Leah Sarah, born Jan. 19, 1836, married Henry Aurand; Lydia, born July 30, 1841, married Robert Middlesworth; Joel Daniel, born July 27, 1843, married Sabilla Norman; Abraham Jacob, born Aug. 21, 1845, married Lydia McLennon; Reuben Frederick, born June 30, 1849; Sophia Catharine, born Dec. 19, 1851, married Emanuel Snook; William Solomon, born June 22, 1854, married Ellen A. Kantz, and died Dec. 28, 1883, and Christina Amanda, born June 22, 1854, she married John D. Dreese.

Mr. Hassinger's seventh son, Rev. Reuben Frederick was educated at Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, and at the Theological Seminary located at same place. He was ordained, in Aug. 1879, a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and is now a member of the Kansas Synod.

In part quoted from the history of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys Vol. 2, page 1590.

Mary, third daughter of Solomon Klose and Sophia C., his wife, married Adam Musser.

Barbara, married George Kline. They resided in Beavertown, Pa. He died Sept. 19, 1871, aged 67 years. His wife, Barbara, died May 30, 1872, aged nearly 62 years.

Leah, married Thomas Moyer, they moved to Ohio and died there.

Amelia, married Henry Swineford. They resided in the Borough of Mifflinburg, Union Co., Pa. Their issue was one son and two daughters.

George Calvin, who died in infancy.

Mary A., married Daniel T. Rhoads. They resided in their home in the borough of Middleburg. They had no issue. Mr. Rhoads died Dec. 22, 1901, aged 65 years and 19 days. He is buried in the Middleburg union cemetery.

Comrade Rhoads was mustered out at the end of the Civil war as First Lieutenant, Company I, 49th Regiment, Pa. Vol. Inf. He was a good and brave soldier, a kind and valuable neighbor, beloved by all who knew him.

Louisa, second daughter, married Daniel Kleckner, they resided in the borough of Mifflinburg, Pa. He died July 13, 1898, aged 61 years.

Both Mary A. Rhoads and her sister Louisa, survive their husbands, and reside in the borough of Middleburg, Pa.

Amelia, first wife of Henry Swineford, died Aug. 23, 1845, aged 23 years. She is buried in the Mifflinburg cemetery.

Afterward for his second wife, he married Miss Susan Hassenplug. Their issue was five children. Albright, the first son, died young. Henry, Charles, Minerva and Lizzie were the names of other children. Henry Swineford died in 1894 aged about 74 years. Both he and his second wife, Susan are buried in the Mifflinburg cemetery, Union Co., Pa.

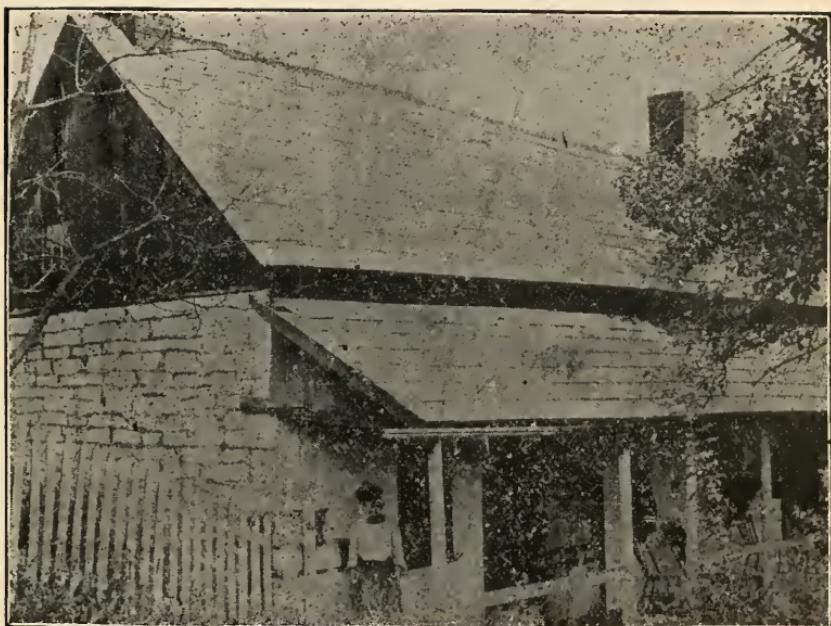
Lydia, seventh daughter of Solomon and Sophia C., his wife was born Oct. 18, 1824. She married Isaac Ritz. They removed to the west.

Malinda, eighth daughter was married to Andrew Knepp.

A majority of the daughters of Solomon Klose and Sophia C., his wife, married and removed to western states.

The writer could not obtain the necessary data as to dates and locality of their settlements, but enough is known that one of Solomon Klose's children is now living in 1906.

Jeremiah, third and youngest son of Johan Adam Gift, was born June 21, 1773, in Weissenburg township, Northampton, now since the division in 1812 in Lehigh county, Pa. He lived on his farm located on the south bank of Middlecreek, a little west from where Paxtonville is now located, now in Franklin township, Snyder Co., Pa., containing 225 acres, conveyed to him by his father, Johan Adam. Jeremiah Gift,



**Homestead of Jeremiah Gift, Five Miles East of Zanesville, O.**  
See John Adam Gift History, chap. II.



in 1795 married Catharine Klein, now spelled Kline. She was a daughter of Christopher Kline, who emigrated at an early day from Berks Co., Pa., to Middlecreek Valley, Northumberland now Snyder County. He was one of the early pioneers of the valley. He was an ancestor of the Kline family, living in the west end of the county of Snyder.

Jeremiah and wife Catherine, after retiring made their home with their son John, on the old homestead farm. Here he died on July 2, 1843, aged 70 years and 12 days. His wife Catherine, died December 23, 1845, aged 79 years. Both are buried in the old Hassinger church cemetery. Their graves are marked by tombstones with inscriptions. They were honest and kind neighbors, respected by all who knew them. Christopher Kline, father of Catherine, owned and occupied a farm in Beaver township, afterwards owned by George Kline, a nephew, now deceased. The bulk of this farm is still in 1906, owned by Malinda, only daughter of George Kline.

She was married to Philip Harpster, now deceased.

The following incident was related to the writer when a boy, by his grandmother, Catherine Gift, nee Kline, that when her father, Christopher Kline, first moved to the valley in about 1780 and took possession of his Government Homestead, the domestic cattle were left grazing in the woods freely; one of the cows generally carried a bell, the strap of which was buckled around the neck. This was done to find the herd in order to round them up in the evening, and that it was very common to see two or three deer grazing with the cattle. So tame had they become that they could be approached to within a short distance without disturbing them and that not over a mile from their cabin, a skeleton of an Indian was found along side of a skeleton of a deer. It was supposed the Indian shot the deer and approached too closely and that in his death struggle he inflicted a fatal wound with his sharp claws to the Indian and both died together. She related that when they first located here the country was wild. Game of all kind was very plenty and that a few peaceably disposed Indians were still roving over the country.

Jeremiah Gift and Catherine, his wife, had nine children as follows: Jonathan, John, Jacob, Simon, Michael, Daniel, Rebecca, Elizabeth and Barbara.

Jonathan, the eldest son of Jeremiah Gift, was born in about 1795, and died in about 1825. When a young man learned the blacksmith trade. He married Miss Elizabeth Stiver. He bought a small farm, containing about 22 acres from his father, Jeremiah. This was a part of the old homestead, located a little west from where Paxtonville now stands. This property is now owned 1906, by Mrs. Mary A. Rigel. Here they resided, he did some farming and carried on his blacksmith business. He died in about 1825. He has no tombstone. The writer

is unable to give his age. His wife Elizabeth, died in about the year 1857. Both are buried in the Christ's otherwise Hassinger's church cemetery.

Jonathan and wife, Elizabeth, had no sons, but raised three daughters to womanhood. Their names were Catherine, Leah and Rachael. Catherine died while single and is buried in a cemetery near Richfield, Juniata Co., Pa.

Leah married Joseph Heffley. They owned and resided on the old homestead, formerly owned by her father, Jonathan Gift, in Franklin township, west from Paxtonville. He died Sept. 18, 1867, aged 53 years, 1 month and 3 days. His wife, Leah died July 25, 1901, aged 78 years. Both are buried in the old Hassinger church cemetery.

Joseph and Leah, his wife, had two sons and two daughters. Peter, the eldest, died Feb. 1, 1861, aged nearly 17 years.

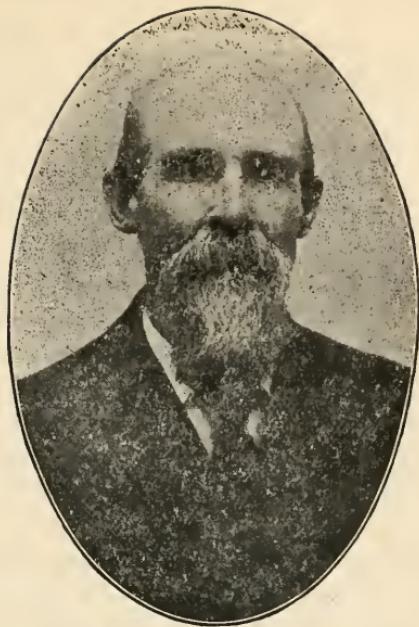
Jonathan, second son married, Miss Savilla Stetler. They owned and resided on the old homestead in Franklin township. He died August 18, 1889, aged nearly 37 years. Both brothers are buried in the old Hassinger cemetery and have tombstones.

Catherine, eldest daughter, married Henry Maurer. They reside at Beaver Springs, Pa.

Louisa, youngest daughter, married Peter Felmley. He was killed by an accident in Sept. 1888, while engaged in lumbering in Center county, Pa.

John, the second son of Jeremiah Gift, when a young man learned the weaver's trade. This was a remunerative business one hundred years ago, when the new settlers here used nothing but homespun and home woven flax and wool for clothing. Every family on that line was, so to say, its own manufacturer, except perhaps the fulling and dyeing, for there were then already mills erected for that purpose. In 1826 John Gift married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of John Kern. Her grandfather was John Yost Kern, who emigrated from Freisbach, Germany, in 1748. (See history of the Kern family.) Her mother, Catherine Kern, nee Royer, was a daughter of Johan George Royer, whose father was Christopher Royer, who came from the Rhine, Pfaltz, south Germany, in 1748. (See history of the Royer family.) John Gift and Elizabeth, his wife, owned and occupied the old homestead farm bought from his father, Jeremiah, located a little west from where Paxtonville now stands, in Franklin township, Snyder county, Pa., containing originally 225 acres. John Gift and Elizabeth, his wife, had their home to the time of their deaths with their youngest son, W. D. Gift, who owned and occupied the eastern part of the old homestead.

John Gift was born July 27, 1767, and died May 29, 1866, aged 68 years, 10 months and 2 days. His wife Elizabeth, was born July 12,



W. D. Gift, Residing at Middleburg, Pa.

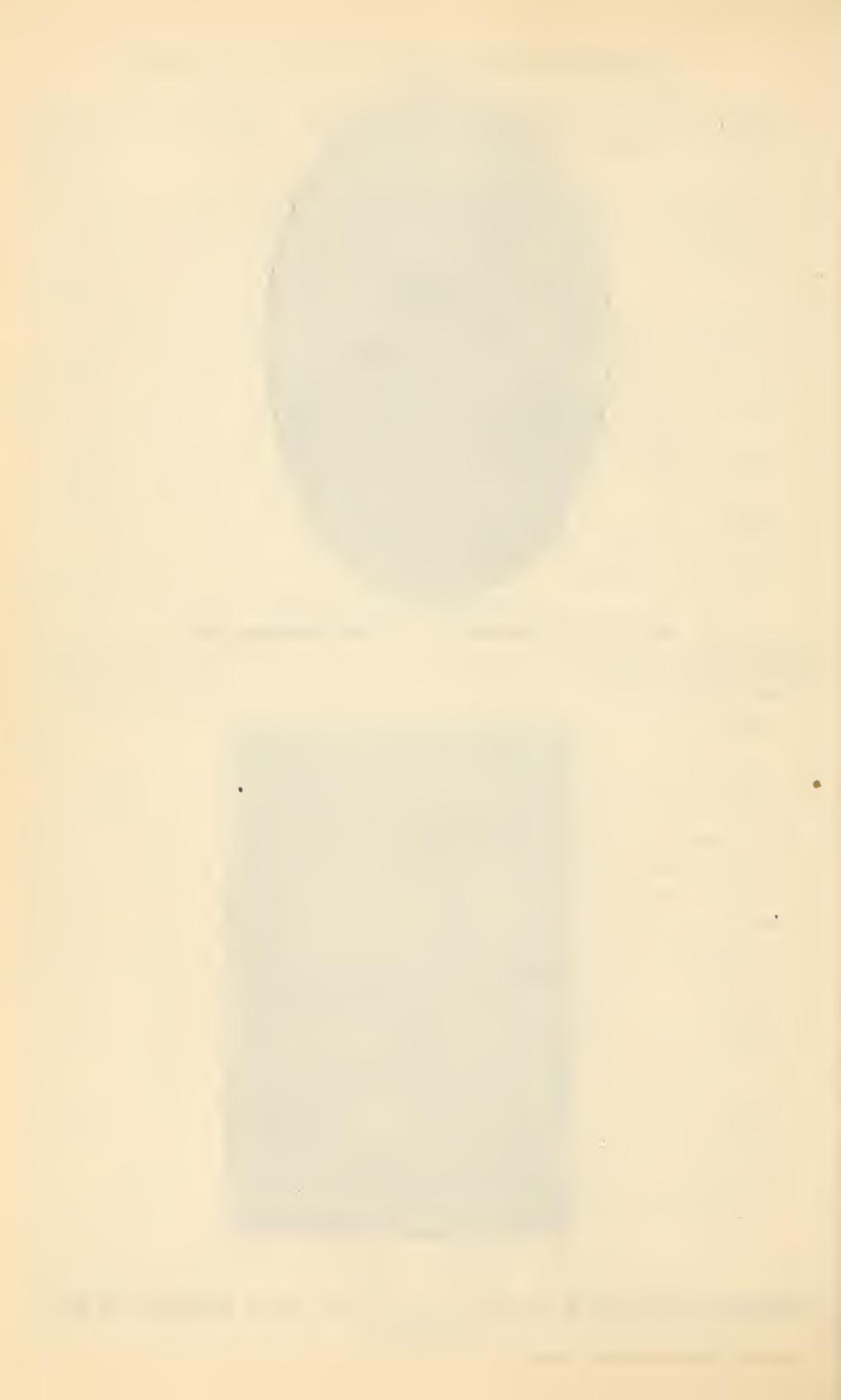
See John Adam Gift, chap. II.

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Elizabeth, Wife of John Gift, Nee Kern, and Mother of the Author.

See John Adam Gift History, chap. II.



1807 and died March 23, 1876, aged 68 years, 8 months and 11 days. Both are buried in the Christ's (alias) Hassinger's church cemetery. Their resting places are marked by inscribed tombstones. They were known in the community where they resided as honest, upright, peaceable neighbors and citizens.

John and Elizabeth Gift had four sons and five daughters to wit: Aaron Kern Gift, writes his name A. K. Gift, David William Davis, who writes his name, W. D. Gift, a son born Oct. 29, 1840 and died in infancy, Amelia, Barbara Ellen, Catherine, Amanda and Susanna.

A. K. Gift, the eldest son of John Gift, and writer of this history, was born Nov. 19, 1827. On May 24, 1855 he married Miss Amelia Royer, who was born July 10, 1832. She was a daughter of John Royer, son of Sebastian, whose father was Christopher Royer, who came from the Rhine Pfaltz, South Germany, in 1748. (See history of the Royer family.)

Mrs. Amelia Gift's mother, Catherine, was a daughter of Philip Gemberling, who died in 1859, on the old homestead near Selinsgrove, Pa.

Philip was a son of Jacob, who was one of the old pioneers in that locality, having bought his farm in 1782, containing 300 acres. It was all forest land. The borough of Selinsgrove was then not laid out yet.

A. K. Gift owned and occupied the larger part of the old homestead where he was born near Paxtonville, Franklin township, Snyder Co., Pa. This farm was bought by his great-grandfather, Johar Adam Gift, in 1793.

A. K. Gift and Amelia, his wife, had three sons and three daughters as follows: Charles Oliver, born Feb. 26, 1856 and died March 2, 1859, aged 3 years and 4 days.

John Royer Gift was born March 6, 1858. He resides at Ouray, Col., and is extensively engaged in mining. Lately he removed to Ironton, Colorado.

Herbert Alvin Gift was born Feb. 26, 1870, and by profession is a musician. He is a clarinet soloist, also a piano tuner. He has practiced his profession in most of the large American cities. Quite recently he changed his residence from the city of Scranton to Middleburg, Pa., so that he may be near his parents.

Minerva Jane Gift was born April 3, 1860. She is married to Prof. John H. App. They reside in the city of Akron, Ohio, where he is Principal of one of the ward schools.

Mary Elizabeth Gift was born Oct. 17, 1863. She is married to Henry S. Stetler. They resided in Akron, Ohio, for about fourteen years. While there he was secretary and treasurer of the "Akron Provision Company" incorporated under the laws of Ohio. In 1906 they returned to Middleburg, where he is engaged in the manufacture of mill-

work. Their children are Aaron Miles Stetler born April 3, 1891; Frank Edward Stetler, born Feb. 26, 1896 and Marion Minerva Stetler, born Jan. 26, 1901 and died May 25, 1904 at Akron, Ohio. She is buried in the Union Cemetery at Middleburg, Pa.

An infant daughter of A. K. Gift and wife Amelia, died May 1, 1867, aged 1 month and 14 days. It was buried in the Hassinger cemetery.

W. D. Gift, youngest son of John and Elizabeth Gift, was born on the old Gift Homestead, Dec. 3, 1846, and finally owned and occupied the eastern part thereof. On Sept. 6, 1870, he married Miss Ada, a daughter of William Bowersox. She was born Dec. 10, 1846. They now (1906) reside in Borough of Middleburg, Pa. Their issue was two sons and one daughter.

Rev. Forster U. Gift, eldest son of W. D. Gift, was born May 25, 1871. He married Miss Carrie, a daughter of Rev. J. G. M. Swengel. Their issue is one daughter, Marion Nettie. They reside in the city of Philadelphia, Pa. where he is stationed.

Ralph E. youngest son, was born Aug. 26, 1878. He married Miss Lottie T. daughter of Austin Gift. Their issue is one daughter, Mildred Viola. They reside at Ambler, a suburb, of Philadelphia, Pa.

He is engaged in the mercantile business.

Daisy E. Gift, only daughter of W. D. and Ada Gift was born Aug. 5, 1872. She married Grant W. Yoder. They reside in the Borough of Mifflinburg, Union county, Pa. He is engaged as a Rural Free Delivery mail carrier.

David, a son of John and Elizabeth Gift, was born Nov. 11th, 1832, and died July 12, 1833 aged 8 months. An Infant son was born to the same parents, Oct. 29, 1840, and died soon after birth.

Amelia oldest daughter, was born Dec. 25, 1829, and died Oct. 29, 1893, aged 63 years, 10 months, and 4 days. She was married to Amos Stetler, who was born Oct. 15 1833. He died Aug. 2 1907, aged about 73 years. They resided on there farm in Penn Township, Snyder Co. Pa., and finally bought a home in the Borough of Selinsgrove, where they both died, and are buried in the old Cemetery at Freeburg, Pa.

Their issue was a son, and daughter, the son Albert L. Stetler married Annie Zimmerman. They reside in the city of Allentown, Pa. Mr. Stetler is manager of the machinery in a wire nail factory in that city and is doing well.

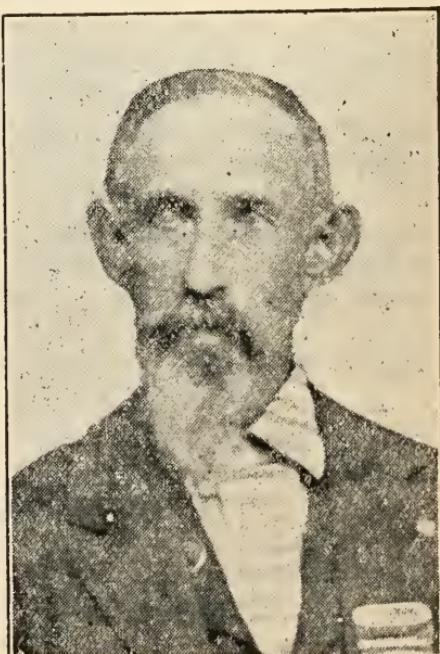
Henrietta L. the daughter was born Sept. 20, 1856, she married John H. Hoover. They reside in the Borough of Selinsgrove, Pa. He is engaged in the lumbering business.



Rev. Foster U. Gift, Pastor Calvary Luth. Church, Phila.  
See History of John Adam Gift, chap. II.



Amelia, Wife of Amos Stetler, nee Gift.  
See John Adam Gift History, chap. II.



Amos Stetler, Died at Selinsgrove, Pa.  
See John Adam Gift History, chap. II.



Barbara Ellen second daughter of John and Elizabeth Gift, she was born March 13, 1835 and married Henry Benfer, who was born Oct. 3, 1832 in Union now Snyder Co., Pa. They owned and occupied what was then known as the old John Kern Homestead, and mill property; situated in Franklin Township near Paxtonville, Pa., now, in 1906, owned by Charles P. Swengle.

Mr. Benfer sold this property, and in March, 1883, emigrated with his family, to the city of Newton, Harvey Co., Kansas.

Here he accumulated much real estate, and was elected to many positions of honor, such as Mayor of the city of Newton, County Commissioner, etc.

Henry Benfer and Barbara Ellen, his wife, had five sons and three daughters.

Peter D. Benfer was born April 23, 1855. He married Miss Sadie Brearsbaugh. He is a locomotive engineer. They have four children, namely, Archie, Ira, Mabel, Ellen and Louisa. They reside at Raton, New Mexico.

Jacob A. born Feb. 27, 1858, married Miss Elizabeth Smith. He is a railroad brakeman. They have five sons, namely: Ollie, Lee, Jester, and Albert.

Charles F. was born Feb. 2, 1860. He married Ida Hoofs. He is Assistant Post Master at Newton, Kans. They have four children, namely, Bernice, Neva, Henry, Morris.

Henry H., born Jan. 28, 1862. He married Miss Lou Morgan. They have no issue. They reside in at Newton, Kans.

Allen S. Benfer, was born May 13, 1865, and died Jan. 9, 1870, aged 4 years, 7 months, and 26 days and is burried in Hassinger's Old Cemetery, west from Middleburg, Pa.

Mary Jane, eldest daughter of Henry and Barbara Ellen Benfer, was born Aug. 19, 1856; was married to G. A. Shambaugh he is a Railway postal clerk. They have two boys, George Rual, and Henry Vane, they reside in Newton, Kans.

Sarah E., born July 13, 1867 and died Feb. 22, 1870, aged 2 years, 7 months, and 8 days. She is buried in the Old Cemetery.

Hattie C. born May 26, 1870. She married J. C. Naugle. They have one son Benter, and one daughter, Alice. They reside in Newton, Kansas. Mr. Naugle is a Railway freight conductor.

Jacob, the third son of Jeremiah Gift, was born Nov. 17th, 1799. He was married to Miss Catherine Lepley, who was born June 19th, 1799.

Jacob died July 17, 1872, aged 73 years and 8 months. His wife, Catherine, died Sept. 18th, 1880, aged 81 years, 2 months and 29 days. Both are burried in the Hassinger, (New Church) cemetery, nearly half a mile west of the old original Hassinger cemetery.

Catherine, wife of Jacob Gift, nee Lepley, was a niece of Michael Lepley, who, with Jacob Gift and others, was killed by the Indians at Fort Freeland, Pa. in 1779. While serving as a soldiers under Washington. (see history of the Henry Kern family.) Jacob Gift and wife Catherine lived on their farm, now in Franklin Township, Snyder county, Penna. They had the following children:

One son Amos, and three daughters Leah, the eldest, Rachael and Eliza, Amos married Miss Elizabeth Walter, a daughter of Adam Walter. They owned and occupied his father Jacob's old homestead. Their issue was three sons and five daughters. William W. born Sept. 14, 1849 died Dec. 30, 1866. Aged 17 years, 3 months, and 16 days.

Adam died Aug. 21, 1854, aged 1 month and 25 day both are buried in the old Hassinger, cemetery.

Daniel H., third son married Miss Louisa Schaeffer. They reside on a farm in Spring township, Snyder Co., Pa. They have four sons and two daughters, William, Charles, Henry and Samuel. The daughters are Gertie and Katie.

Amos Gift's daughters were Mary Ellen, who married Robert Hackenburg. They own and occupy the old Jacob Gift homestead. Their issue was two daughters, Cora and Katie.

Amelia, second daughter of Amos, is single and lives with her mother Elizabeth, widow of Amos, who owns and occupies a small farm east from the old homestead.

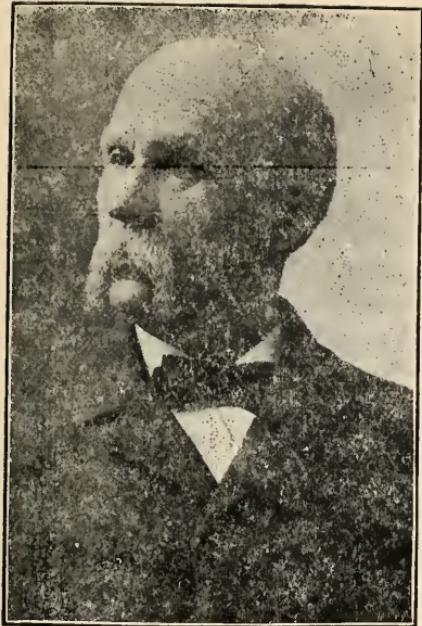
Alice L., third daughter married Jacob G. Smith. They have one daughter Libbie, and are residing with her mother, Elizabeth. Ada E., fourth daughter, married to Abner E. Walter. Their issue was three daughters, Jennie, Mary and Mabel.

Sarah Jane, fifth daughter, married Elmer Bowersox. They have four children, Charles, Allen, Vernie and Lizzie. Sarah Jane died Feb. 11, 1896, aged 30 years. Her husband, Elmer, afterwards married Miss Lydia Pontius.

Leah, the eldest daughter of Jacob Gift and wife, was never married and has her home now in 1906, with her niece, Mary Ellen, and her husband, Robert Hackenburg, on the old Jacob Gift homestead farm. She is a remarkable old lady for her age. Her sight, hearing and mental faculties are not impaired to any great extent. Her memory is good. When interviewed the last time by the writer in 1906 she gave a full verbal history of her father, Jacob's family, without much hesitation. She also contributed much data relating to the family history of her uncle, Simon Gift.

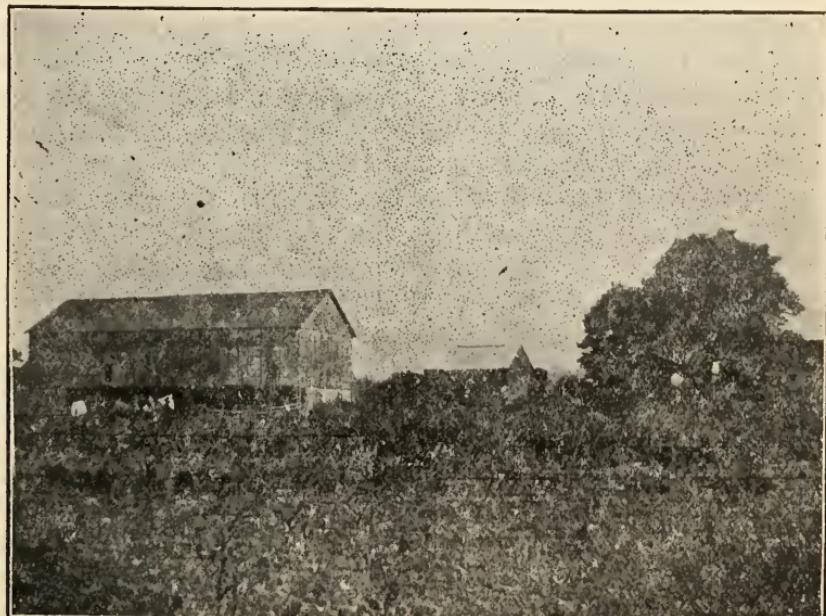
Leah, died Jan. 15, 1907, at the home of her nephew, Millard J. Courtney, at Burnham, Mifflin Co., Pa., at the age of 80 years, 11 months and 25 days. Her remains were brought to Snyder county. She is buried in the Hassinger's new cemetery.

Rachael was married, and died in 1861, aged about 32 years.



Hon. Henry Benfer, and His Wife, Barbara Ellen, nee Gift,  
Residing at Newton, Kans.

See John Adam Gift History, chap. II.



Homestead Buildings and Late Residence of John Kleckner,  
Franklin Twp., Snyder Co.



Eliza, married John J. Courtney. Their issue was one son, Millard J. He was first married to Miss Francis L. Bachman. Their issue was Reid, William, Eugene and a daughter, Matilda. Two infant children died, the first, Aug. 5th, 1879. The second died Oct. 29, 1881.

Eliza, the mother of Millard J. Courtney, was born Nov. 25th, 1833, and died Dec. 27, 1864, aged 31 years, 1 month and 2 days. Millard J. Courtney's wife, Francis L., was born Feb. 24, 1861, and died Oct. 6, 1890, aged 29 years, 7 months and 12 days. All are buried in the old cemetery at Christ's church, more familiarly known as Hassinger's church in Franklin township.

Some time after the death of Mrs. Courtney, her husband, Millard J., married Widow Mary Koon. Their issue was John, Edgar, Frances and Toura. Mr. Courtney owns a farm in Franklin township, Snyder county, but now (in 1906) resides at Burnham, Mifflin county, Pa., adjoining his brother, Jacob's, farm on the east. His wife, Mary, died in about 1830, aged about 32 years. Tradition has it that she was buried in the old Hassinger cemetery. No marker to her grave has been found.

Simon with his first wife, Mary, had the following sons: Jacob, Daniel and Isaac.

Jacob died unmarried, his age was about 30 years.

Daniel, the second son of Simon, was a house carpenter. He built many houses and barns in Centre county, Pa. He married Miss Mary Crawford. They owned and occupied their home in George's Valley Centre county. In his day he was a strong and hearty man, but he met with a great accident. The incident follows: He was engaged to do some carpenter work on Michael Deckard's saw-mill. This was one of the old style mills, water the motive power. It had what was known as a penstock or perpendicular flume to create water pressure to a small under-shot water wheel with a crank attached to the shaft to give movement to the saw frame. By accident Mr. Gift's pocket rule fell down landing between the penstock and the crank. He went down to recover it, creeping between said penstock and crank. Mr. Deckard, the owner, came to the mill and not noticing Mr. Gift's dangerous position drew the gate, the mill started, the crank struck Mr. Gift, breaking the collar bone where it joins the sternum or breastbone. The fractured bones were driven into the flesh to such an extent that they could not be placed in their natural position again. He was carried to his home about one and a half miles away, on a wide board, in an unconscious condition and he remained so for at least forty-eight hours. During all the anxious hours on the part of his kind wife and small children, he was hovering between life and death and not expected to recover, but because of his strong physical constitution, the good nursing and the skill of a good physician and surgeon, he slowly regained consciousness.

He was, however, confined to his bed for many months. He was later able to be around, but could never do very hard work.

Daniel sold his home in George's Valley and bought a small farm near Boonville, Clinton county, Pa., and resided there. He was born Feb. 10, 1824 and died Jan. 21, 1888, aged 63 years, 11 months and 11 days. He is buried in the Boonville Lutheran cemetery. His wife Mary, was born July 12, 1828, and died at Altoona, Pa., where she had lived with her children prior to her death which occurred August 6, 1900, aged 76 years and 24 days. She is buried in the Oak Ridge Cemetery at Altoona, Pa. Their issue was two sons and four daughters.

John S., eldest son, married Miss Amanda Wolfe and resides at Coalport, Clearfield county, Pa.

Thomas M., married Miss Ella Sorrick. They reside at Altoona, Pa.

Martha P., is married to John Miller and reside at Bellwood, Blair county, Pa.

Sarah E., married Daniel Bartges and resides at Altoona, Pa.

Jane S. and Ella both reside at Altoona, Pa.

Isaac, third son of Simon Gift, was a shoemaker by trade. He married Miss Tuna Keller. They had no children. They resided at Centre Hall, Centre county, Pa., where he worked at his trade in connection with a shoe store.

Isaac died at Coburn and was buried at Centre Hall, Centre county, Pa. His wife Tuna, preceded him to the spirit world.

Some years after Simon Gift's first wife, Mary, died, he married Miss Bessie Shipton. Their issue was two sons, William and John. John died young. William M. Gift married Miss Margaret Shalton. They had one son, Isaac, and one daughter, Mary. The son died at the age of 2 years. Mary married A. J. Knepp. They reside near Naginey, P. O., Mifflin county, Pa., where her father, William, has his home. His mind and body is feeble, and his sight fails him greatly. His wife, Margaret, having died, he is still a widower (1906).

William M. Gift served nine months in Co. G. in the 172nd Regiment Pa. Militia and was honorably discharged.

Simon Gift, the father of the above named children, while having his home with his son Isaac, at Centre Hall, Centre Co., Pa., died in about 1872, aged about 68 years. He is buried in the George's Valley Cemetery. His second wife, Bettie, nee Shipton, died a number of years before her husband. It is said she is buried in the old Hassinger Cemetery. There is no tombstone marking her grave and no record of her age, therefore the date of her death could not be secured.

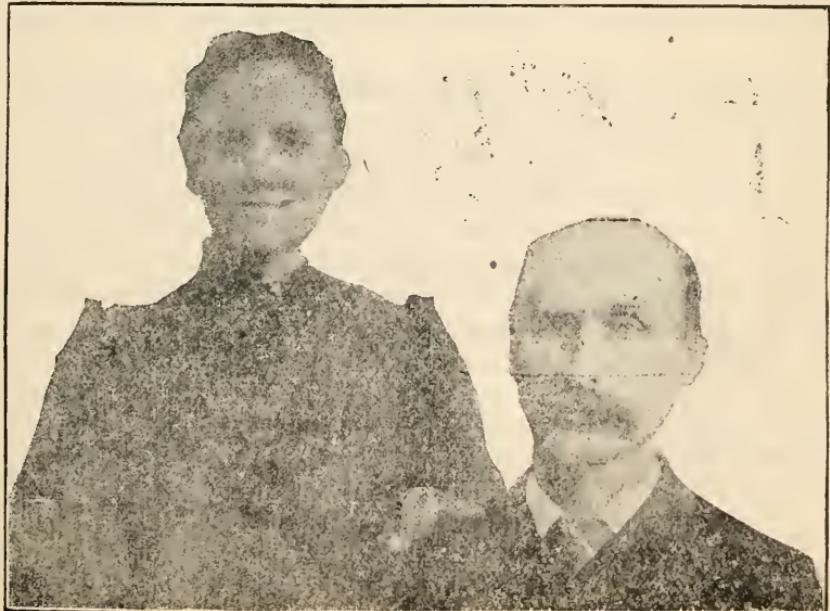
Michael, fifth son of Jeremiah Gift, was married and lived at home with his parents on the homestead where he died. Tradition gives it about 1826, at the age of about 29 years. He is also buried in the old Hassinger cemetery in an unmarked grave.



Daniel Gift, Sr., and Sophia, His Wife,  
Nee Hassinger, Both Deceased.  
See John Adam Gift History, chap. II.



Daniel Gift and Mary His Wife, Nee  
Crawford. Both Deceased.  
See History of John Adam Gift, chap. II.



Austin Gift and Savilla, His Wife, nee Thomas, Deceased.  
See John Adam Gift History, chap. II.



Daniel, the sixth son of Jeremiah Gift, was born July 18, 1811. He married Sophia Hassinger, who was born Jan. 1, 1811. They owned and resided in their home a number of years near Paxtonville, Snyder county, Pa. Sophia was a daughter of Jacob Hassinger, familiarly known as Yocob Hassinger, who owned and died on the farm on the north bank of the Middlecreek near Paxtonville, now (1906) owned by Isaiah Walter. Daniel and his wife Sophia, were blessed with a family of four sons and six daughters.

Samuel, the eldest son, was born May 22, 1832. He was married three times. His first wife was Miss Catherine Aurand. She was a daughter of John Aurand, of Union county, Pa.

In 1860 they removed west and located at Hampshire, Kane county, Ill. Here Samuel accumulated a good deal of real estate and followed farming, stock-raising and dairying. He was also a brick-mason by trade.

By his first wife Catherine, he had three sons; James, Charles and John. Sometime after his first wife died, he married Miss Barbara Frederick, of Hampshire. Their issue was Mary, who died young, Emma and Adda. His second wife also died and he afterwards married a third wife, Mrs. Luzette Klick, of the same place. This union was blessed with one son, Edward. The third wife died about two years before her husband, Samuel Gift, who remained a widower until his sudden and tragic death, which occurred on Jan. 17, 1903. Mr. Gift was driving in his carriage to Hampshire, Ill., to attend religious services in his church. After services he started towards home. The road leading from his home to Hampshire crossed the tracks of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. When he had reached the middle of the track he was suddenly struck by a fast express train and instantly killed.

Samuel Gift and his three estimable partners in life are lying side by side in their family lot in the cemetery at Hampshire, Ill., and are again reunited in yonder spirit world, where there will be no more parting. Samuel's children still reside at Hampshire and vicinity.

Roswell, second son of Daniel Gift was born Oct. 2, 1837. He married Judith Kerr. They resided at Centreville, Snyder county, Pa. They had eight children, all of whom died in infancy except one daughter, Laura, who died at the age of eight years. Comrade Roswell served nine months in the Civil War as First Lieutenant in Co. "C" 172nd Regiment Penna. Infantry. He died at Centreville, Pa., Jan. 25, 1864, aged 26 years, 3 months and 23 days. He is buried in the old Hassinger cemetery. His grave is marked with an inscribed tombstone. His grave with that of other comrades is decorated each Memorial day with blooming flowers, by the G. A. R. and Sons of Veterans, who still kindly remember the departed heroes, who have answered the last roll-call.

Jonathan, third son of Daniel Gift, was born May 16, 1843. He was not married. He enlisted for the Civil War and joined Company H, 151st Regiment, Penna. Vol. Infantry after serving 11 months with credit to himself and his company he sickened, went to the Soldiers' Hospital at Covington, Ky., where he died on Oct. 16, 1863, aged 20 years and 5 months. He was buried there.

Austin, fourth and youngest son of Daniel Gift, was born June 20, 1848. He married Miss Sovilla Thomas, who died April 16, 1901, aged 53 years and 17 days. She died at their home at Paxtonville, Snyder county, Pa. She is buried in the cemetery at that place. Her husband Austin, and family still reside there. They had a family of four sons and five daughters.

Wilson R., eldest son married Miss Irene Dobson have three children, Herman, another little son and a daughter whose name is Claire. Wilson is an engineer in an electric power house and resides at Bloomsburg, Pa.

Franklin C., second son of Austin, married Louisa Getgen. They reside at Sunbury. They have three children, Robert, Martha and the youngest a small daughter.

Roswell A., third son is not married and has his home at Burnham, Pa., where he has employment.

Clark T., fourth and youngest son, is living at home with his father.

Mollie J., eldest daughter of Austin Gift, married John Sterner and is residing at Sunbury, Pa. He is a plumber by trade and is doing well.

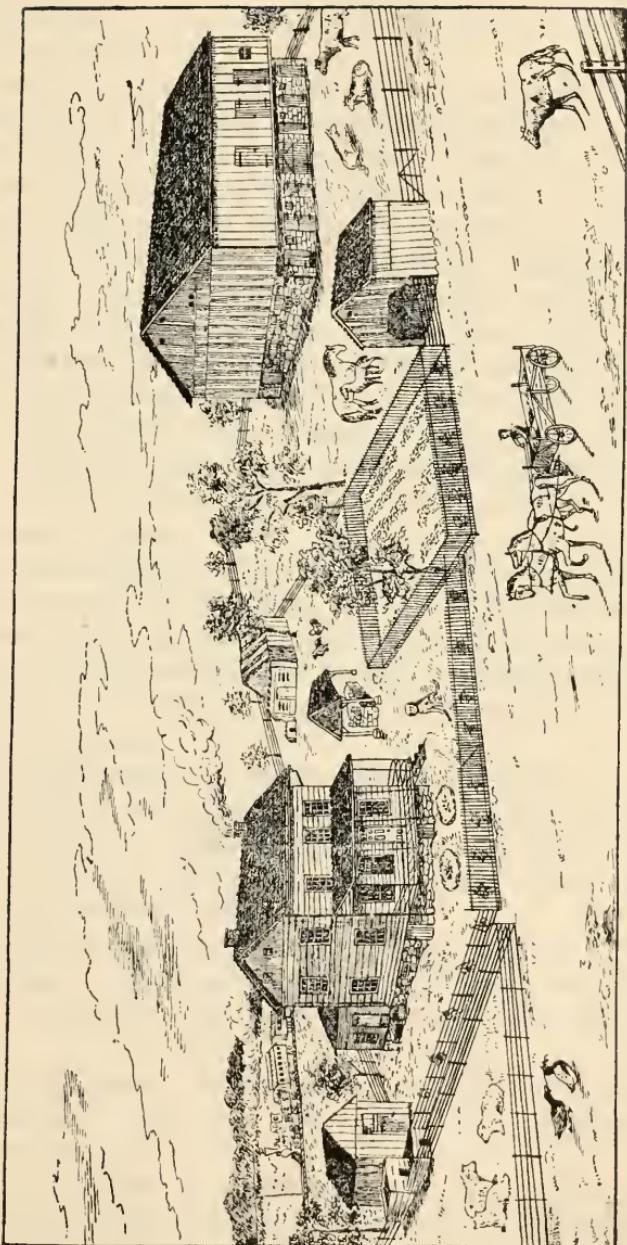
Sallie T., second daughter died young.

Lottie T., third daughter married Ralph E. Gift. They have one daughter Mildred Viola. They reside at Ambler, a suburb of Philadelphia, Pa. He is engaged in the mercantile business.

Maude A., fourth daughter is single and resides in Philadelphia, Pa.

Annie, youngest daughter of Austin Gift, married George Nevin. He is a clerk. They reside at Sunbury, Pa.

On July 18, 1880, Austin Gift met with a very serious and painful accident. On that day he and Mr. Peter Felmy were engaged in making saw logs for Mr. Charles P. Swengel, on the northern slope of Shade mountain about half way up from the base near Paxtonville, Pa. While cutting down a large pine tree it began to fall. The choppers ran away to a safe place as they thought, but the tree slipped from the stump for a considerable distance and the butt end struck Mr. Gift on the lower end of the tibia, right above the ankle of the right foot, completely crushing that part of the limb. Mr. Felmy, his helper, was compelled to abandon his suffering companion and come down the mountain to get help. The neighbors responded quickly. They made a temporary stretcher upon which he was carried to his home a distance of fully two



The Old Homestead of Aaron Kern Gift, the Author, Near Paxtonville, Pa.



miles. On reaching home Dr. I. D. Conrad had already arrived. He immediately dressed the wounds, but eleven days after the accident, July 29, it became necessary to amputate his right leg four inches above the knee. This critical operation was performed by Drs. I. D. Conrad, B. F. Wagenseller, J. Y. Shindel and A. M. Smith. He was confined to his bed for two months.

At the end of one year July 1, 1881, he purchased an artificial limb at Philadelphia, Pa., which he has successfully used ever since. With it he is able to perform light and easy labor. During his confinement a great deal of sympathy was shown by his friends and neighbors, who were always ready to lend a helping hand whenever necessary. His wife and small children spent many long hours watching by his side. But for these kind acts, together with his strong constitution and great will power, this accident might have proven fatal. For a number of years Mr. Gift has been tax collector of Franklin township.

Mary, the eldest daughter of Daniel and Sophia Gift, was born June 14, 1834. She married Simon Wetzel. They had the following six children: Francis, Mariah (now dead) George, Austin, Andrew and Elizabeth. In 1882 they emigrated west, locating at Waterville, Marshall county, Kansas.

Margaret, second daughter of Daniel Gift, was born Oct. 10, 1836. She married George Diebler. They had seven children, two sons and five daughters: Noah, Lincoln, Clara, Emma, Eliza, Adda and Nellie. In 1859 they emigrated west and located in Hancock county, Ohio. Later they removed to Hampshire, Ill. Here in 1898, he died. The family still reside there.

Barbara, third daughter of Daniel Gift, was born Nov. 8, 1839. She married Philip Dillmon. Their issue was six children: Charles, who died in infancy, John, Lewellyn, Kate, Carrie and Florence. Barbara died Jan. 17, 1901, in Milton, Pa., where she is buried. All of Barbara's children are doing well.

Emeline, fourth daughter, was born Sept. 12, 1841. She married Franklin Gilham. They had ten children; William, Daniel, Allen and Walter. The daughters were Bertha, Elizabeth, Adda, Ellen, Clara and Kate.

Sallie, fifth daughter, was born Feb. 14, 1745. She married Rev. Reuben Bowersox. They were blessed with three children, two sons and one daughter.

Francis C., the eldest son, was for several terms superintendent of the schools of Snyder county, Pa., and for two terms was a member of the House of Representatives from Snyder county, Pa. He and his family now reside at Wilkesbarre, Pa. Rollin G. and his mother reside at Lewistown, Pa., where he owns and operates a green house.

Kate S., the daughter, is a teacher in the Indian school at Carlisle, Pa., and resides there.

Rev. Reuben Bowersox died Oct. 18, 1879, at Paxtonville, Pa., and is buried there. He was a member of Co. D., 74th Reg. Pa. Vol. Inf.

Adda, 6th daughter of Daniel and Sophia Gift, was born Jan. 30, 1851. She married David Horner. Their issue was nine children, four sons and five daughters. William D., Ira, Melvin, Edward, Laura, Margaret, Hattie (dec'd), Katie (dec'd), and Ethel. David Horner died June 9, 1901, at Paxtonville, Pa. The family still reside there.

Daniel Gift died June 6, 1879, aged 67 years and 18 days. His wife, Sophia, died Feb. 7, 1875, aged 63 years, 8 months and 6 days. Both are buried in the cemetery at Paxtonville, Pa. They were honest and respectable people.

Now having disposed historically of the six sons of Jeremiah Gift, I will proceed with the history of his three daughters.

Rebecca, eldest daughter, married Michael S. Decker. She was born Aug. 5, 1803, and died Dec. 29, 1882, aged 79 years, 4 months and 24 days. Her husband, Michael S., was born Feb. 14, 1807, and died May 1, 1871, aged 64 years, 2 months and 17 days. Both are buried in Hassinger's old cemetery.

Michael S. Decker and Rebecca, his wife, had four sons and six daughters.

Thomas, eldest son, married Mrs. Martha Philman, nee Rothrock, her first husband having died. Their issue in second marriage was two sons, Nathan, who died young, and Daniel, and three daughters, Laura, Emma and Ellen.

Thomas served in the Civil War, in a Mifflin Co. company and regiment. After serving his term he was honorably discharged. He was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness. He died near Milroy, aged about 67 years, and is buried there. His wife, Martha, still survives him and lives in the same locality.

Levi, second son, married Miss Barbara Sanders, a daughter of John Sanders. Levi resides on his farm in Beaver township, Snyder county, Pa. They were blessed with four sons and six daughters.

Charles Michael, first son, died single in the state of Texas.

William B., married Miss Emma Fall. They reside in Mifflin county, Penna.

James E., married Jane Hackenberry. They reside in their home near Middleburg, Pa.

Levi H. died in infancy. Comrade Levi Decker served in the Civil War in Company K, 205th Regiment Pa. Vol. Inf. F. B. McClenhan was his captain. He was honorably discharged.

Sarah Rebecca, first daughter, married Edward Shirk. They reside in Mifflin county, Pa.

Lucinda M., married James Etzler, residing in Beavertown, Pa.

Francis A. married Mr. Shank. They reside at Burnham, Mifflin county, Pa. Frances died in Feb. 1905.

Dora I. married Abraham McClanathan. They also reside at Burnham, Mifflin county, Pa.

Jeremiah, third son of Michael S. and Rebecca Decker, enlisted from Mifflin county, Pa., Feb. 24, 1864, for three years. He was a member of Company C, 44th Regiment Pa. Cavalry, Capt. J. P. Taylor, who was promoted to Colonel and afterwards to Major General. His second captain was Robert J. McNitt. He was a good soldier and was honorably discharged. In a battle he was severely wounded in the region of the liver. This and other complicated diseases caused his death, which occurred at the age of about 50 years. He was married to Miss Agnes Hildebrand. Their issue was one son, John D.

Simon, fourth son, enlisted for the Civil War, Aug. 24, 1864, mustered out with his Company June 1, 1865. He was a member of Company A, Capt. Thomas W. Hoffman, Colonel Alfred B. McCalmont, Lieutenant M. T. Heintzelman.

Comrade Simon Decker, after the war, married Miss Mary Betzker. Their issue was three daughters, Margaret, Emma and Ida.

Margaret married Grant Zerbe, residing in western Pennsylvania. Emma married and also lives in western Pennsylvania. Ida died in infancy. Simon's wife, Mary, died near Paxtonville, Pa., and is buried there. Simon has his home with one of his daughters.

Mary, eldest daughter of Michael S. and Rebecca Decker, married James Gillham. They resided at Danville, Pa. He died there. She married again and soon after also died.

Elizabeth, second daughter married John Erb. They resided at Paxtonville, Pa., where she died. Mr. Erb afterwards married again and died in Huntingdon county, Pa.

Mattie, third daughter, married George Dreese. They resided on their farm in Beaver township. Mattie died May 4, 1896, aged 63 years and 10 days. She is buried in the Beavertown cemetery. Her husband has since resided in Beavertown and has since died. They were blessed with a family of nine sons and three daughters. Most of them reside in the vicinity of Beavertown.

Catherine, fourth daughter, married George Grove. He died near Maitland, Mifflin county, Pa., his widow, Catherine, still resides there.

Matilda, fifth daughter, married James King. He died at Beech Creek, Clinton county, Pa. For her second husband she married Samuel Farwell. They reside in Clinton county, Pa.

Adeline, sixth and youngest daughter of Michael S. and Rebecca Deck-

er, married Conrad Hooven. There was no issue. They reside near Beavertown, Pa.

Elizabeth, second daughter of Jeremiah and Catherine (nee Kline) Gift, was born in about 1805 and died in 1832, aged about 27 years. The records are not complete so that the above dates of birth and death are a little uncertain. She was born a cripple both her feet having been badly deformed so that walking was very burdensome. Otherwise her body and mental faculties were well developed. She was not married, and lived with her parents until the time of her death.

The writer of this history was not quite five years old at the time of her death and still up to this time (1906) faintly remembers his aunt "Betsey" as she was familiarly called. She is buried in the Hassinger's old cemetery, two miles west of Middleburg.

Barbara, third and youngest daughter of Jeremiah and Catherine (Kline) Gift married George Hassinger, who was a son of Jacob (Yocob) and Magdalene (Krick) Hassinger. Both are buried in the Hassinger's old cemetery.

Barbara was born in about the year 1808 and died in April 1850 aged 42 years. Her husband George, was born July 5, 1805, and died in 1880, aged 75. For want of proper data, the above birth and death may not be strictly correct.

George and Barbara (Gift) Hassinger had the following four sons: Levi, Robert, Jacob and Elias.

Levi, the eldest son married Lydia A. Wiand. He died January 5, 1897, aged 62 years, 10 months and 20 days. His wife Lydia, died Feb. 20, 1895 aged about 60 years. Both are buried in the Globe Mills cemetery. Their issue was ten children, three sons and seven daughters.

George A., the oldest son is married to Dianna Walter and resides near Middleburg, Pa. They have three sons and three daughters. One died in infancy.

Michael S., married Matilda Moyer. They have one daughter.

Charles L., resides at Beavertown, Pa.

Sarah M., married Albert Stroup. They have four sons and two daughter and reside at Mt. Pleasant Mills, Pa.

Mary J., married Ammon B. Walter. They have two sons and one daughter. They reside at Globe Mills, Pa.

Reed Walter, son of Irvin Walter, of Globe Mills, Pa., met a sudden, sad and tragical death. The following is copied in part from the Lewistown, Pa. "Daily Sentinel" by permission:

"Another railroad fatality has been added to the number that have occurred at Lewistown Junction, this one being due to the dangerous habit of walking upon the railroad tracks. The victim was Reed Walter. Reed had been working at Burnham and was boarding with his uncle,

A. B. Walter on Highland Avenue. On Sunday Dec. 31, 1905, at about 11 o'clock a. m. Young Walter and a companion named Fisher, went out to take a walk; coming toward the station on No. 4 track they come in contact with the west bound fast mail and express train, but its approach and the cries of warning by persons near by were not noticed until too late. Fisher managed to jump but Walter was unable to clear the track in time. He was struck by the first and second locomotives, as it was a so called double header. The victim was picked up and taken to the company's emergency hospital. Dr. Harshberger was summoned but the doctor could not give any surgical relief. His skull was crushed and several bones were broken, besides other injuries. At about four o'clock the same day, death came to his relief. On the Monday following his remains were brought to the home of his parents at Globe Mills, in charge of his uncle. He was a bright and intelligent young man, 19 years of age. He is buried in the cemetery at Globe Mills, Pa.

Lizzie, fourth daughter of Levi Hassinger, married G. E. Botteiger. They have one daughter named, Florence. They reside at Richfield, Juniata Co., Pa.

Ada F., married Daniel Hassinger. They have two sons and two daughters and reside at Beavertown, Pa.

Amanda C., married to Merid J. Parker. They have one child and reside at Lewistown, Pa.

Cora M., is married to Albert Moyer. They have one daughter and reside at Lewistown, Pa.

Robert, second son of George and Barbara Hassinger, is married to Amelia, widow of J. M. Fees, deceased. Amelia was a daughter of Philip and Malinda (Kline) Harpster, who reside at Beavertown. Philip has since died. Robert has one daughter Ellen, with his first wife. She is married to Foster Smith, a son of George Smith, deceased, and they reside at Beaver Springs, Pa.

Jacob, third son is married to Miss Mariah Harmon. They have two children.

Elias, fourth son married Sarah Moyer.

George Hassinger was a widower for some years, then married Sarah Fuhrman. She died in Ohio, aged about 75 years. They had the following children: Samuel died in Ohio; Emma died, aged 3 years and Sarah died at the age of one year. The data of the family of George Hassinger, deceased, were given to the writer in part by Robert Hassinger, a son. That of Levi Hassinger, deceased, was obtained from George A. Hassinger, a son of Levi.

Here the writer will give an incident in the life of Jeremiah Gift as related to his grandson, A. K. Gift, as follows:

In A. D. 1783, a German named Cyriacus Spangenberg, came to Middlecreek Valley in the territory now composing the townships of Penns, Middlecreek, Franklin, Northumberland, now Snyder Co., Pa. He was highly educated and gave himself out as a German Reformed preacher. Jeremiah Gift heard him preach. He was a fair German orator and a fine penman. Ministers in those primitives days were very scarce, consequently he was employed. By tradition it seems he preached in the old small log church near the site where the second and third churches were afterwards erected, the latter in 1872 all known as Christ's church familiarly called "Hassinger's church."

This Spangenberg claimed to be a single man. He was of a cross and surly disposition. His people soon found that he had never studied for the ministry, but merely took it up to gain a livelihood. They soon tired of him, and he left and succeeded in introducing himself to congregations in Bedford and Somerset counties, Pa. Still saying he was a single man. Soon after his wife came over from Germany. This caused quite an excitement. His people censured him for not telling the truth. He gave as his reason: "I thought God had severed the bonds of matrimony because we lived so far apart." In his high German he said: "I·h glambda Gott hatta dans ehahond szerrissen weil wier labden so weita fvon einaunder." He and his wife then lived together and he was permitted to preach on for some time. He was then already well advanced in years. He had four or five congregations or charges. He felt that he would soon be too old to preach, so he made the following proposition to his congregation: That he would preach for them as long as he was able, and after he was too old and feeble to perform his clerical duties, they would have to keep him and his wife as long as they lived, and that this contract was to be in writing.

When he made this proposition to one of his congregations, after the services were over, all the church officers agreed excepting Elder Jacob Glassmore who objected boldly in the presence of Spangenberg and the other officers and members remaining, giving as a reason for opposing this plan, that he would serve them only a short time and then say that he was not able to perform his clerical duties any longer, then would become a burden to them. Consequently the contract was not made.

This statement so enraged Spangenberg and he soon left the church for his home, several miles away. Soon after Elder Glassmore in company with another member also left. On the home way when passing the residence of Spangenberg, he invited them in. They both entered and after having had some conversation both left, when they got out on the street, Spangenberg recalled Glassmore who went in alone. Just as he entered the house, Spangenberg stepped out from behind the door with a long knife and stabbed Glassmore through the heart. He died

almost instantly. This aroused the neighborhood. The people gathered and bound Spangenberg with ropes, and as he stood, bound, he remarked in his high German; ("So hanben sie unsern licken Heilaund aug Ghebunden'") "So they had bound our beloved Saviour also," to which his wife remarked "O God such a deed you committed once before in the old country." He was conveyed to the jail at Bedford, Bedford County, Pa. His trial ended April 27, 1795. He was found guilty of murder in the first degree, and was executed on the 10th day of October following, between the hours of ten a. m. and two p. m. in the Bedford county jail yard. Just before he was hanged, he asked permission from the sheriff to smoke another pipe of tobacco, for he said "It will be the last smoke on earth." His request was granted.

Thus ended the life of the man who found his way into the quiet rural settlement of Pennsylvania, as the serpent did into Eden.

Spangenberg had come over from the old country with the Hessian Mercenaries under General Knappharsen in 1776-77 who were hirelings, and came with the English soldiers to fight the United Colonies of America. He was an educated man, and on the connivance of a frivolous preacher, named Philip J. Michaels, secured irregular ordination to preach under the German Reformed church regulation in this country.

NOTE: John Blair Linn Esq., in his history of Buffalo Valley, in reference to the Spangenberg murder case does not say his wife ever came to this country, but says on page 218 "Spangenberg drew upon himself the affections of a young female, and obtained the promise of marriage, the day was fixed, but on the day previous a letter was discovered from his wife, still living in Europe. This at once arrested further proceedings." On the same page Mr. Linn says, The murder of Glassmore took place in the church in presence of the church officers and some members." It would seem natural that Spangenberg would commit such a deed in public, but would seek a more isolated place like his own dwelling, as related to the writer by his Grandfather.

A genealogical history of the four daughters of John Adam Gift will follow: Elnore, oldest daughter, was married to Frances Ditto. They lived on their farm, then in Penns, now Adams township, in Northumberland, now Snyder county, in what is still known as Musser's Valley. This farm is now (in 1906) owned by D. A. Kern. This county was then (in 1800), sparsely settled, full of wild animals, such as the bear, the deer, the wolf, the wild cat, the catamount, and all kinds of large and small fur-bearing creatures. Mr. Ditto was a great hunter and trapper. Many of these animals were laid low by his unerring rifle and never-failing strong steel traps. He felt himself at home among such wild neighbors. He was also a Revolutionary soldier. He related to his granddaughter, Mrs. Mary M. DuBois, now residing at Tiffin, Ohio,

that during his military service he often met and talked with General Washington. She further says her grandfather was a strong-minded and resolute man and not easily frightened, yet he was strictly honest and upright in his dealings with his fellowmen and he expected the same treatment from them. The following incident happened while living in Musser's Valley. Mr. Ditto was in the habit of burying his apples in a hole or pit in the ground and covering them, first with straw, then with earth to keep them from freezing during the winter. About the holidays when the family began to use these a small hole was dug through the frozen earth and a plug of hay or straw was inserted to keep the cold out. After the family had used apples for awhile he made the discovery that the apples were disappearing too fast. He made a new hole opposite the first one and set one of his strong steel traps over in front of the old hole, inside closing the new hole tightly and covering it nicely with snow. The next morning when Mr. Ditto came out of his house he discovered that he had caught his apple thief with his right arm in the hole and his hand fast in the trap and his empty bag beside him. He called Mr. Ditto saying, "come quickly and loosen me, I am almost frozen to death." In Pennsylvania German he said "Kum gaschwind un moch mich lose ich bin by naw zum dod ferfrora." He replied, "I have not time now I must go to the barn to feed my stock." Upon his return he loosened his apple thief and told him: "We have plenty of apples you could have had for the asking, but I don't want them stolen. I will give you a bushel in your bag as a compensation for detaining you so unceremoniously at my apple hole. If you come back again for apples without permission, I will fill you full of buckshot. Mr. Ditto never revealed the name of his apple thief, but it leaked out afterwards that the guilty person was one of his neighbors. Mr. Ditto's residence was close by the north branch of the Middlecreek near its junction with Swift Run.

This locality was densely covered with heavy timber and under brush. This made splendid hunting ground. Mr. Jeremiah Gift when a young man from 1783 to 1790 often accompanied his brother-in-law, Francis Ditto, on his hunting and trapping expeditions, often camping out over night. This was related to the writer, A. K. Gift, when a small boy, by his grandfather, Jeremiah. In the evening, after a day's hunt Mr. Ditto would pass the time in taking the hides off the animals killed during the day.

Francis Ditto followed farming and his favorite business of hunting and trapping up to 1812, when the country became more thickly settled and game more scarce. Then he followed the example of the renowned pioneer, Daniel Boone, who with his father, 'Squire Boone, settled on the banks of the Yadkin river, North Carolina in 1764. Soon others

came and the settlement became crowded. On the 1st of May 1769, Boone and a few others started on an expedition and came to the banks of the Kentucky river where Boonesborough, Kentucky, now stands. Finally he brought his wife and family. Here he became a noted protector and guard to the new settlement against all enemies. Soon many new settlers followed him and that part of the state increased in population, game also became scarcer. So after years of usefulness in that state and because of his instinctive dislike for crowded settlements, he decided to seek a more lonely place of residence. He removed to Missouri. Here the United States government granted to him eight hundred acres of land upon which he lived until the time of his death which occurred in 1820 at the age of eighty-six years. History gives it that in his extreme old age his passion for hunting did not leave him. He made many long excursions on foot entirely alone into the interior of Missouri. In 1845 the legislature caused his remains to be brought back to Frankfort, Ky., and re-interred in the cemetery in that city with much ceremony and honor. Thus ended a useful life, one who lived not only for himself, but for the benefit of his fellowmen and their prosperity.

But to return to the subject of this sketch. On the 4th day July 1812, Francis Ditto, and his wife by their deed granted and confirmed a certain tract or parcel of land containing 228 acres to Adam Kern for the consideration of five hundred pounds, \$2433.00, situated in Penn's now Adams township in Northumberland, now Snyder county, Pa. After having so disposed of his farm and personal property, such as could not be transported by wagon teams, as there were no railroads in that early day, Francis and family were ready to go on their long journey early the following morning, July 5, 1812, for the far west, as the Ohio country was then known. The evening before their departure their neighbors gathered to give them a last good-bye. While they were thus assembled a member of the family came in and reported that the fence beyond the barn was on fire. This was quite a distance from the house. The family and their guests all ran out to put out the fire. Mr. Ditto, however, refused to leave the house, saying: "You go, I will remain here with my loaded rifles and my money bag." There were then no banking facilities so he kept \$700.00 in a strong canvas bag all in silver and gold coin. This was considerable wealth for those early days. Mr. Ditto readily apprehended what the fire beyond the barn meant so late that night. The fire was soon extinguished by the family and their friends and no attempt was made to rob the house.

After a long and tedious journey they arrived at their destination in Pickaway county, Ohio. One record, however, gives it that they first landed at Piqua, Ohio, than removed to Pickaway county soon after-

wards. In Pickaway county, Francis Ditto, procured considerable real estate, mostly government land, in the fertile Scioto river valley. Here he located permanently. Most of his children had grown up to manhood and womanhood in Pennsylvania and were a strong and hearty family, well suited for pioneer life. This Ohio country was then thinly settled and full of wild game, so Mr. Ditto was in his element, for he found hunting and trapping more renumerative here than in the state and county from which he had come.

Francis and Elner Ditto were blessed with the following children: John W., George, Andrew and Johnson. All the daughters the writer could trace at this late day were Catherine and Mary. All the historical data relating to the Ditto branch of the Gift Genealogy are very fragmentary. It was mostly obtained by tradition and correspondence between the writer and Mrs. Mary DuBois, a daughter of John W. Ditto and granddaughter of Francis. She is a kind old lady living in Tiffin, Ohio.

John W., eldest son of Francis and Elner Gift Ditto, was born in 1785 on the Ditto homestead, in Penna. now Adams township, Snyder county, Pa. He died in Seneca county, Ohio in 1853.

In 1812 he emigrated with his father's family to Ohio. He settled first at Piqua. In 1821 he procured a Government Land Warrant for 160 acres in Seneca county, Ohio. He was married, and in 1822 he moved with his family to the new home, which was then wild and heavily timbered. He cleared some land and built a house for himself and one for his parents. He afterwards brought them from Pickaway county to their new home. Here Francis Ditto died at a good old age. By his own request, he was buried on a lot on the farm of his other son, George, near the home of John W. Francis Ditto was a Revolutionary soldier and was personally acquainted with General George Washington. The farm of George Ditto on which he is buried has changed owners many times since the burial of this honored veteran. It is said that his resting place is unmarked and greatly neglected. Very few of his posterity are now living there, therefore the county or government should remedy this oversight as soon as practicable and at least erect an inscribed marker.

John W. Ditto, eldest son of Francis and Elner Ditto, was blessed with the following children as near as the writer can trace them: Solomon emigrated from Seneca county, Ohio, to Illinois. He had a son named George W., who years ago emigrated to Dawson county, Nebraska. He is a prominent man and was County Commissioner of said county. The writer while living there, serving as County Surveyor, was well acquainted with George W. Ditto. There was also another son whose history was not obtainable.

Mary M., daughter of J. W. Ditto, was married to a Mr. DuBois, among her children were: John, who with his mother reside on their farm near Tiffin, Ohio.

George W., resides at Cripple Creek, Colorado. He is engaged at mining.

John W. Ditto had another daughter who was five years older than Mrs. DuBois. John W. Ditto was a soldier in the war of 1812 to 1814 against England. His widow for years after his death drew a government pension.

George Ditto, second son of Francis and Elner, was married and resided on his farm in Seneca county, Ohio, where his father, Francis, is buried as already noted. He had one son and one daughter.

Andrew Ditto, third son of Francis and Elner, was married and blessed with one son and one daughter. His residence could not be ascertained.

Johnson, fourth son of Francis and Elner, was married and left the old home in Ohio years ago, and emigrated to one of the western states. Very little has been heard from him since, by his relatives in Ohio. Having now noted the sons of Francis and Elner Ditto, will now give a brief history of their daughters, Catherine and Mary.

Catherine Ditto was married to a Mr. Markley. This union was blessed with five sons and two daughters. They live in Henry county, Ohio. After the death of Francis in Seneca county, as already noted, his wife, Elner, made her home with this daughter.

Elner, daughter of Johan Adam Gift and who became the wife of Francis Ditto, was born in Pennsylvania about 1762 and died in Henry county, Ohio, in about 1858 where she is buried. Her age was 96 years.

Mrs. Mary M. DuBois says, "When I last saw my grandmother Elner, some time before her death, she was so beautiful, so kind and so good. Her skin was clear and smooth, her hair was as white as snow, her disposition was loving and amiable. This picture can never be erased from my mind as I last saw her in life."

Adam Smith was born Dec. 16, 1786. He married Mary Ditto, who was born Dec. 31, 1788. Mary was a daughter of Francis and Elner Ditto, the latter of whom was the eldest daughter of Johan Adam Gift. Adam Smith and Mary his wife, were blessed with the following children: John D., Peter, Henry, Adam, Michael, Daniel, George, Isaac, Sarah and Delilah.

John D., eldest son of Adam and Mary Smith, who was born Sept. 9, 1806 and died Sept. 8, 1856, was married to Anna Benner. who died at the age of twenty-eight. They had two children, Robert and Catherine.

Robert married Malinda, a daughter of Jacob Gross, of Beaver Springs, Pa. Their issue was: Ira J., Jennie, and Forry; the latter dying in

1873, at the age of seven years. Later, John D. Smith married Miss Hannah Bubb, daughter of Philip Bubb. Their issue was William B., who married Alvina Fetterolf. To this union were born six sons and three daughters. William B. still on the old homestead, which has been in the Smith name for over a century. Joseph S. married Etta Manbeck, and to them were born four daughters. They reside in Montague, Mich. Benneville married Barbara Ellen Swartz, daughter of Elias Reger Swartz, a great grandfather of Adam Reger, founder of Adamsburg, Pa. To this union, were born three daughters: Anna, who died at the early age of four; Mellie, married to Edwin Charles; and Bessie, single. Benneville served as a Jury Commissioner, from 1886-1888, and as County Treasurer, from 1900-1903. He now conducts a music and furniture store in Middleburg, Pa. Adam, another son of John D. Smith, married Susan J. Klose, with whom she had one son, and four daughters. They reside at Berwick, Pa. Susan, a daughter of John D., married James F. Keller, a veteran of Co. D., 74th Reg. Inf. Their issue being one son and two daughters. Sarah Jane another of John D.'s daughters, was married to Henry Erdly.

Peter, second son of Adam and Mary Smith, was born Feb. 16, 1806. He was married to Miss Hassinger. She was a daughter of Henry Hassinger. They had two sons, Alfred and Milton. The former married Mary A. Freed, and the latter married Mary Beam. After the death of Peter Smith, his widow, Hannah, married a Mr. Dreese.

Henry Smith, third son of Adam and Mary, born Nov. 23, 1810, was married to Miss Sarah Gross. To them were born the following four sons and one daughter: Irwin, deceased; William H., deceased, who had married Ellen Beaver; Isaac C., married to Mary Speeet, with whom he has thirteen sons and daughters, and resides at Enterline, Dauphin Co., Pa., and Elvina, deceased, married George J. Schoch, with whom she had one son and three daughters.

Adam Smith, fourth son of Adam and Mary Smith, was born April 14, 1812, was married to Mary Specht, to whom were born one son and two daughters: Arthur, Kate, married to Leo Wohlschlegel, at Naples, N. Y.; Emma S., deceased, who had married S. A. Wetzel, who was a veteran of the Civil War, serving in Co. I., 184th Pa. V. Inf. Mr. Wetzel also served eighteen years as Justice-of-the-Peace in Beaver township, as Associate Judge of Snyder Co., for two terms, and at present he is serving as Postmaster at Beavertown, Pa. Later the widow of Adam Smith was married to Henry Kern, deceased, and now resides in Beavertown, Pa. The latter union was blessed with three sons: Frank, Millard and John.

Michael, fifth son of Adam and Mary, nee Ditto Gift, was born May 21, 1818, was never married, and died at about the age of thirty-five years.

Daniel, the sixth son of Adam and Mary, was born Oct. 28, 1824, married to Mary Saltzman, and died in Mifflin Co., Pa. Their issue was three sons and five daughters: Howard; Charles, deceased; Calvin, deceased; Caroline, married to William M. Keller, Beavertown, Pa.; Alvildah, married to P. M. Reigle and resides at Burnham, Pa.; Mary C., married to Wm. Brisbin, of Burnham, and Malinda and Louisa, both of Burnham, Pa.

George, the seventh son of Adam and Mary Smith, was born Sept. 21, 1826, died Nov. 27, 1887, and is buried in the Troxelville cemetery. He was married to Susanna Gross, daughter of Christian Gross. Their issue was two sons and two daughters: Sadie, who is married to Dr. Garinger, and resides at Asherton, Northumberland Co., Pa.; Mary, married to Samuel Kaufman, now deceased, of Sunbury, Pa.; Foster, married to Ella Hassinger, daughter of Robert Hassinger, and resides at Beaver Springs; Isaac C., married to Kate Sebold, and resides on his farm at Troxelville, Pa.

Isaac, eighth son of Adam and Mary Smith, was born June 21, 1828, and was never married. He died at Philadelphia, Aug., 1897, and is buried in the West Laurel Hill cemetery, of that city. He was a soldier of the Civil War, having enlisted in Captain Mitchel's company of New Berlin, Pa. Comrade Smith was promoted to First Lieutenant. His company and regiment have not been reported to the writer. From 1866 to 1867, Isaac was a drummer on the road, selling notions for Fuller, Bucker & Co., of Philadelphia, and from 1867 to 1870, he represented D. C. Clark & Co., after which he became interested in, and a partner of the firm of Smith, Jarrett & Co., wholesale grocers, in the same city. Associated in this firm, with him, were W. J. Smith and Frank Jarret. This co-partnership continued until it was reorganized in 1878, with Isaac and W. J. Smith composing the firm. This firm continued business until 1882, at which time the firm name was again changed to Smith, Foster & Co., who carried on until the death of the senior member occurred. The surviving partners are still continuing the business.

Sarah, oldest daughter of Adam and Mary Smith, was born April 12, 1820, and was married to John Bickel, who operated a paper mill about one mile west of Beaver Springs. Mr. Bickel and wife emigrated to Three Rivers, Mich., about 1855. Here they both died. To this couple there were born five daughters and one son. Susan, Clementine, Jennie and Allie reside at Los Angeles, Cal., Nettie resides in New York City, and the son, John, died at Three Rivers.

Delilah, another daughter of Adam and Mary, was born Oct. 5, 1830, and was married to Capt. Robert Foster in 1849, at State College, Centre Co., Pa. Capt. Robert Foster was a soldier in the Civil War. In 1862,

he was appointed, by Gov. Curtin, to recruit and organize a regiment from Centre Co., Pa. This regiment was afterwards known as the 148th Pa., V. Inf., commanded by Col. James A. Beaver, (afterwards Governor of Pennsylvania) and was at once ordered to the front and put into active service, Captain Foster commanding a company.

Thomas Foster of Phila., son of Capt. Robert Foster, says, "My father took part in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville. and others. In these battles, his regiment, the 148 Pa. V. I., lost heavily," "In 1863, when the battle at Gettysburg, Pa., was fought, my father commanded this regiment. He was killed, July 3, 1863, in the Peach Orchard by a sharp shooter, who was concealed in the top of a tree, near "Devil's Den." Thus he gave his life for the preservation of our government and in defense of his country."

Delilah, his wife, died at State College, Pa., in Dec. 1896. Captain Foster and wife's family consisted of three sons and three daughters. The three sons, Thomas, William, and Robert have been engaged in the wholesale grocery business in Phila., for over twenty years. Robert was elected and served for two terms in the legislature, of his native state.

Mary died at the age of five years, Adaline died at the age of three years, and Christine died at the age of six years.

Mary, second daughter of John Adam Gift, married John Herman in Pa.

He was a weaver by trade. The father of the writer, John Gift, learned the weaver's trade with his uncle, John Herman. In those early days, this was a very remunerative business, for nearly all the clothes, worn by men and women, were home-spun and home-woven, either of flax or wool. John Herman has a son, named John Jr. At an early day, they emigrated to Ohio. It is impossible for me to trace this family any further.

Gertrude, the third daughter of John Adam Gift and his beloved wife Anna Catherine, was born in Penn Township, then Northumberland, now Snyder county, Pa. Feb. 1, 1777. She was married to John Geller. They resided on their farm, in the Mahantongo Valley, in Penn. now in Perry Township, Northumberland, now in Snyer County, Penna. Much effort having been made, but the writer was not able to procure all the necessary historical facts or data, to write an authentic history of this much respected family, John Geller and Gertrude his wife, and their posterity.

Enough is known, however, that he and his wife, Gerturde, reared a large family of children. The writer was not able to get all their names. One of the daughters, Catharine Zeller, on June 31st, 1797, was married to John Frederick Goy, who came to this valley from York county, Pennsylvania, in 1790. This family was blessed with the following

children, the names of whom we give regular order. June 1, 1798, a daughter was born, named Margaret. She died and was buried in the cemetery near Grubb's church, Snyder county, Pa. In November, 1799, a son was born and named John Goy. Baptismal witness was Benjamin Zeller, his uncle. John died November 7, 1836, aged 37 years. He was also buried in the cemetery at Grubb's church. On November 6, 1801, a son was born and named Frederick. He died October 10, 1863, and is buried in the cemetery at Arbogast's church, familiarly known as Zion's church. A daughter was born named Anna Catherine. On Nov. 2, 1805, a son was born named Peter Goy. Baptismal witnesses were Tobias Zeller and wife, uncle and aunt. His burial took place at Arbogast's church. August 30, 1807, a son was born named Benjamin. He died March 23, 1813. November 10, 1810, a daughter was born named Barbara. She died Sept. 21, 1816. January 28, 1813, a son was born named David Goy. He died July 27, 1878. He was married to Miss Mary, a daughter of George Swineford and Susan Freed Swineford, his wife, both of whom lived and died in Middleburg, Pa. Mary, wife of David Goy, was born May 22, 1822, and died March 2, 1872. Both she and her husband, David Goy, are buried at the Arbogast church cemetery.

William Goy, son of David and Mary, was born March 12, 1843 and died July 10, 1863. He is buried in the cemetery at the Arbogast church.

Thomas, son of David Goy, was born November 26, 1844 and died January 7, 1866. He is also buried in the cemetery at the Arbogast church.

Amelia Goy was born December 14, 1847. She died Oct. 19, 1866. Is also buried at the Arbogast church cemetery.

Frederick, son of David Goy, was born April 14, 1850 and died April 16, 1870. He is buried in the same cemetery.

Levi S. Goy, son of David Goy and wife, Mary, was born October 15, 1852. He was married December 29, 1872 to Miss Ellen, daughter of Dr. J. B. Brown and his esteemed wife, Catherine Shirk Brown. This union was blessed with the following children.

Henry Laurin Goy was born October 1, 1873, and died August 21, 1898 while serving in the Spanish American War. His age was 24 years, 10 months and 20 days.

Charles Gustavus Goy was born July 4, 1876.

Theodore Frederick Goy was born March 25, 1879 and died April 26, 1900.

Catherine Elfleda Goy was born March 29, 1881.

Robert Franklin Goy was born April 28, 1883. He was married May 25, 1902, to Miss Lizzie May Wert, by Rev. J. F. Kelley, pastor of the U. B. church.

Mildred Wert Goy, daughter of Robert Franklin Goy, was born Nov. 16, 1902.

Mary Irene Goy was born June 8, 1888.

Miriam Ruth Goy was born September 9, 1895 and died at the age of six days.

Margaret, youngest daughter of Levi S. and wife Ellen (nee Brown) Goy, was born April 7, 1898.

George W. Goy, son of David Goy was married to Miss Emma Bertch, July 11, 1880. Their union was blessed with one son, James Cloyd. He was born March 8, 1881.

Mary, daughter of David Goy, was born July 2, 1855. She was married to G. A. Botdorf, Esquire. She died May 5, 1905. She is buried at Evergreen cemetery at Freeburg, Pa.

Henry David Goy was born March 4, 1895 and died December 5, 1865. He is buried in the Arbogast cemetery.

Frederick Rathfon (Rathvan) was married to Miss Mary Zeller. She was a granddaughter of John Zeller and Gertrude, his wife, who was a daughter of John Adam Gift. Frederick Rathfon and wife resided in the village of Franklin (known as Swineford P. O.) Snyder Co., Pa. He died Oct. 26, 1892, aged 82 years, 1 month and 10 days. She died February 26, 1891, aged 80 years, 5 months and 25 days. Both are buried in the cemetery at St. John's church near Fremont (Mt. Pleasant Mills) Pa.

Eva Gift was the fourth and youngest daughter of Johan Adam and his beloved wife, Anna Catherine Gift. She was killed by a sad accident as follows:

The following is an incident related by Jeremiah Gift to his grandson, the writer A. K. Gift, when a boy about ten years of age, which was preserved by him as well as many other data for his future contemplated history.

Eva, a daughter of Johan Adam Gift in about 1795 lived with her brother Jeremiah, who owned and occupied the farm west from where Paxtonville now stands in Franklin township. This farm and home-stead was afterwards in succession owned by Jeremiah's son John, then by his grandson, A. K. Gift. One day Jeremiah Gift was clearing and felling trees in the meadow. His wife Catherine, was assisting him picking brush; Eve was engaged in the house nearby. At noon she got the dinner ready on the table than went to call her brother and his wife to dinner. At her arrival he was just felling a large oak tree. She came toward him, he called to her to run, she misapprehended and ran the wrong way and got under the falling tree. Her skull was crushed causing a large flow of blood over which her brother laid a large flat stone to mark the place. She was instantly killed. Upon Jeremiah,

the brother and his wife, the stroke fell heavily. They were greatly grieved almost beyond endurance. They planted a rose stalk there to mark the place more permanently.

When his son John, got the farm his father Jeremiah, cautioned him never to disturb the roses. When A. K. Gift came in possession of the farm he in like manner was told by his father John, to take good care of the rose bushes. Afterwards in about 1858 the roses had grown wild and were surrounded by a clump of small trees and bushes.

This spot was thus marked until up to 1869, when the Sunbury and Lewistown railroad was graded. Its right of way extended over it, and the historical spot was forever obliterated. A. K. Gift, now in 1906, is still able to point out the place within a few feet where the sad accident happened. Eva Gift's lamentable death occurred May 8, 1795. She is buried in the old cemetery at Christ's church familiarly called Hassinger's. Her resting place is marked by a small headstone engraved thereon "Eva Gift, May 8, 1795" indicating the time of her death.



# HISTORY OF PETER GIFT, Sr., AND HIS POSTERITY

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## CHAPTER THREE

In 1750, Peter and his two brothers, John Adam, and Nicholas Gift, emigrated from Germany to America. Previous to 1772 Peter settled in Lynn Township, Northampton county, (since the division of counties in 1812, this township is within the territory of Lehigh County, Penna.) His two brothers, John Adam and Nicholas Gift, about the same time, also settled in this county. The exact date can not be given, but the tax records shows that Peter Gift was first assessed in Lynn Township, Northampton, (now Lehigh) county, in 1772. The amount of proprietary tax levied was 1£ 6s. 8p. He was still assessed in this county in 1786, on a farm with 200 acres of land, 2 horses and 2 cows, the taxes were 1£. 9s. 0p. In 1787 and 1788 his taxes were the same. After the latter year it seems he ceased to pay taxes in this county, and we have reasons to believe he sold out in about 1788, and removed to Reading, Penna., where he followed his trade that of clockmaker which business it seems he learned thoroughly in Germany for his clocks gave general satisfaction. Many are yet in existence and running order and are still good time keepers, although more than a century old. They are held as valuable heir looms by those who are so fortunate as to possess them. Tradition says Peter Gift, Sr., died at Reading, Pa.; his wife survived him for some years and died with her son Peter, Jr., at Kutztown, Penn., and is buried there. It was said of them that they were good and honest people, respected by all who knew them.

The following was copied from the German family bible owned by Peter Gift, Jr., by Wilson M. Gift, of Allentown, Pa., for this history. This old and historical bible was printed at Nurnberg, Germany, in 1756:

"Peter Gift, Jr., eldest son of Peter Gift, Sr., was born in February, 1780 in Lynn township, Northampton (now Lehigh) county, Penna., where his father then resided. He was b<sup>apt</sup>tized. The sponsors were Theobald Holben and his wife, Sarah. He was confirmed by Rev. Roth. His wife, Miss Elizabeth Moyer Gift was born in September, 1783,

in Macungie township, now Lehigh county. She was baptized; her sponsors were Jonathan Krauss and Elizabeth Myer (both single.) She was confirmed by Rev. Helfrich.

Joseph, eldest son of Peter Gift, Jr., and wife Elizabeth, was born Feb. 10, 1803 in Weisenberg township now Lehigh county, Pa. He was baptized by Rev. Miller; sponsors were Nicholas Myer and his wife, Maria.

Sallie, eldest daughter of Peter Gift, Jr., was born February 20, 1805, in Lowhill township, Lehigh county, Pa., and was baptized by Rev. Helfrich: sponsors were Jacob Fenstermache and Ella Elizabeth, his wife.

Peter, second son of Peter Gift, Jr., was born Jan. 7, 1807, in Kutztown, Berks county, Pa., to which place his parents had removed in 1806 from Lehigh county. He was baptized by Rev. Helfrich; sponsors were Peter Kutz and his wife, Susanna.

William, third son of Peter Gift, Jr., was born April 24, 1810 at Kutztown, Pa. He was baptized by Rev. Helfrich; sponsors were Philip Moyer and wife.

Elizabeth, second daughter of Peter Gift, Jr., was born at Kutztown, Pa., Jan. 1, 1813. She was baptized. Her sponsors were John Kistler and his wife, Hannah.

Henrietta, third daughter, was born at Kutztown, Pa., Nov. 6, 1815. She was baptized by Rev. G. German; sponsors Elizabeth Eberhard and G. German.

Daniel, fourth son was born at Kutztown, Pa., Jan. 26, 1818; was baptized; the sponsors were John Uiolas and Maria Glasser.

Sarah Anna, fourth daughter, was born at Kutztown, Pa., April 30, 1820. She was baptized by Rev. Vinosky; sponsor was Sarah Moyer.

Henry, fifth son of Peter Gift, Jr., was born at Kutztown, Pa., Sept. 15, 1824. He was baptized; sponsors were Jacob Dinnan and his wife, Judith. Of the foregoing children up to February 11, 1826, the following died: Joseph died April 4, 1825, aged 22 years, 1 month and 24 days. Henry died Jan. 4, 1825, aged 14 years, 8 months and 19 days. Elizabeth died February 11, 1826, aged 13 years, 1 month and 10 days.

In 1906 Peter Gift, Jr., removed from Lowhill township, Northampton (now Lehigh) county, to Kutztown, Berks county, Pa. He was also a clock-maker like his father, Peter Gift, Sr., from whom he had learned his trade. At Kutztown Peter, Jr., carried on an extensive business. There are also many of his clocks to be found in Eastern Penna., many of them in good running order and at this writing (1908) highly prized. These clocks were all hand made, the works being made entirely of brass and steel. Hon. G. Alfred Schoch, of Middleburg, Pa., is the owner of one of Peter Gift's (Jr.) clocks made at Kutztown, Pa., in about 1808 and is still (1908) an excellent timekeeper. This old and

valuable clock was owned by Peter Kutz, who removed from Berks county to Union county, Pa., and in 1823 Mr. Kutz sold his farm including said clock to John Mensch, finally Mr. Schoeh a relative became the owner. The clock can be seen in Middleburg, Pa. "Peter Gift, Kutztown," appears on the dial of this clock in bold German characters.

On the authority of Albert Aicher, of Mt. Sterling, Ky., a grandson of Peter Gift, Jr., we say that the town clock in the tower on the court house at Reading, Pa., was constructed by Peter Gift, Jr., over a century ago, and is still in good running order.

The writer, a grandson of Jeremiah Gift is in possession of a German letter dated at Kutztown, Pa., April 5, 1819, written by Peter Gift, Jr., addressed to his first cousin, Jeremiah Gift, then at Swineford Mills, now Middleburg, Pa. In this letter Peter speaks favorably of his brother Andrew, but says that his brother Frederick and wife had been very extravagant, that Frederick bought the old homestead very cheap, and finally lost it all. He was to keep and nurse his mother, the widow of Peter Gift, Sr., during her natural life, and that she was greatly neglected and made uncomfortable. Finally her other two sons, Andrew and Peter, Jr., brought her to the latter's home at Kutztown. Here she died six months afterwards and was buried there.

Frederick Gift, at the time the above letter was written (1819), had nine children, two of whom had died, among the living were Jonas, Isaac, Peter and Elizabeth and three others who can not be named, the eldest however married a man named L. Myers, they resided at Allentown, Pa. The second had married a Mr. Schneider. They had lived in Berks county, Pa.

Andrew Gift, third son of Peter Gift, Sr., the clock maker at Reading, Pa., was married to Miss Catherine Maddern. They resided in Maxatawny Township, Berks county, near Kutztown, Pa. He died in March, 1844, and is buried there. This union was blessed with the following children: David, Joseph, William, Hannah, Catherine, Mary, Lydia and Phoebe.

David, eldest son of Andrew Gift, was married to Miss Mary Heffner. They resided on the old Andrew Gift homestead farm. Their children were Clarissa, who was married to Jacob S. Stine, residing near Kutztown, Pa. This union was blessed with one son and one daughter. Ammon, their son, was married to Miss Mary Young, residing at Reading, Pa. He died many years ago, but his widow still survives him. Their issue was one son.

James, second son of David Gift, was married to Miss Ellen Garnert. They reside in Newtown, Lehigh county, Pa. There was no issue.

Cecilia, second daughter of David Gift, was married to William Schollenberger. They resided at Lyons, Berks county, Pa. Their

children were Andora, Milton and Irvin. Jacob, third son of David Gift, married Miss Amanda Garnert, they resided at Reading, Pa. Their children were Caroline, Mary C. and Jacob. The latter died in 1901. His widow still survives him.

Joriah, third daughter of David Gift, was married to Henry Rhoads. They resided at Reading, Pa. Their issue was Herman, Mamie and Mollie.

Hannah, eldest daughter of Andrew Gift, was married to Jacob Wright. They lived in Berks county, Pa. Both died years ago. They were blessed with the following issue: Jonathan Wright, residing at Allentown, Pa. William, second son was married to Miss Elizabeth Stoud. They had two sons: Benjamin, who married Miss Annie Resser. S. Henry Wright was married to Miss Ella Oberholser. George Diehl was married to Amanda Huntsicker residing at Lehighton, Carbon county, Pa. They had one son.

Amandus, third son of Jacob and Hannah Wright, was married to Miss Caroline Harper. They had no children.

Jane, eldest daughter of Jacob Wright, was married to Amandus Diehl, who died some years ago. His widow still survives him and resides at Lehighton, Carbon Co., Pa. They had one son and two daughters. Emma married James Este at Lehighton, Pa. They had one son and two daughters. Sarah married Milton Emery at Weissport, Pa. They had two sons and two daughters.

Priscilla, second daughter of Jacob and Hannah Wright, was married to Isaac Smick. They had two daughters, Hannah, who married George Dixon; Mary married Thomas James.

Fianna, third daughter, was married to Alexander Carson. They had three daughters, Rose was married to John Smith, Mary married James Platt and Emma was married to George Fox.

Mary, fourth daughter, was married to Jacob Moyer; of this union there is only one son living, Harry, who married Emma Cormax.

Catherine, married Henry Fisher.

Sarah married Charles Batchelder; she died in October 1907.

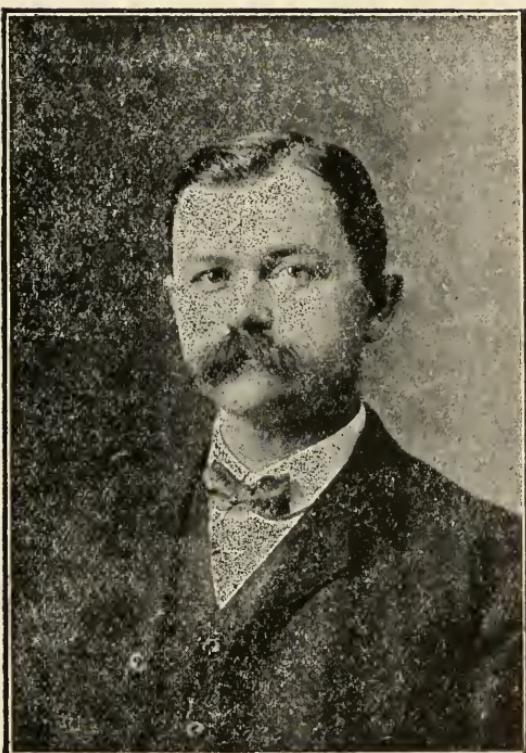
Ella Moyer married Elmer Slough.

Catherine, daughter of Jacob and Hannah Wright, was married to Joseph Bell, residing at Norristown, Pa. They have one son and two daughters living, four of their children have died.

Joseph Bell, Jr., son of Joseph Bell, Sr., was united in marriage with Nellie Kershner. Their issue was one son and one daughter.

Blanche, daughter of Joseph Bell, Sr., was married to Charles Baker. They had no children.

Amelia, daughter of Joseph Bell, Sr., united in marriage with Frank Morgan. They have one daughter.



Lefenus Gift, Allentown, Pa.

See Peter Gift History, chap. III.



Sarah, daughter of Jacob and Hannah Wright, was married to James Heebner. They had one child Annie, who was married to Elmer Trumbower. They had two daughters.

Christopher Heebner was united in marriage with Priscilla Dotterer. Henry Heebner was not married.

Catherine, daughter of Andrew Gift, was married to John Adam. One of their daughters was married to William Bunsinger. One of their sons is a minister.

Mary, daughter of Andrew Gift, was married to William Heffner. Their issue was Catherine, who married Joel Detrick, residing at Grimsville, Pa. Their children were Oscar, Ida, Edwin and Stella. Charity was married to Jacob Wiltrot, residing in Berks county, Pa. Their children were Howard and Ellsworth.

William Heffner, Jr., son of William Heffner, Sr., was married to Sarah Stump. Their children were Willis S., Clara M., Lizzie L. and George S.

Cinthyanna N., daughter of William and Mary Heffner (now deceased) was the wife of Rev. Blockadus Metzger, of Troutville, Pa. They had one daughter named Florence.

Amanda Heffner was married to Perry Schlenker. Their children were Milton W. S. and Maggie M.

Mary Heffner married Erasmus Gehret. They had the following children: Norman, Amelia and Emma. The two daughters are both dead.

Louisa Heffner married Owen Oswald. Their children were Clara J. Mary S. and Rosie A.

Lydia, fourth daughter of Andrew and Catherine Gift was united in marriage with Daniel Kershner. They had no children. Lydia died July 3, 1907, aged 94 years. Her remains rest in the New Triopoli cemetery, Lehigh county, Pa.

Phoebe, the youngest daughter of Andrew Gift, was married to Perry Reiehelderfer. They had a number of children among them were two sons, Charles and Chester and four daughters, Mary, Maria, Rosa and Lizzie.

Joseph, son of Andrew and Catherine Gift, married Miss Mariah Steigerwald. They resided in Lynn township, Lehigh county, Pa. They had one son, Daniel S., who was the great-grandson of Peter, original ancestor at Reading, Pa. Daniel S., was married to Miss Melinda Camp. They were blessed with one son Lafenus J., and one daughter, Alice E.

Lafenus J., a machinist, is married to Miss Clara Getter. They reside at Allentown, Pa. They have four children: Robert, Howard, Marion and Gertrude.

Alice E. Gift, daughter of Daniel S. Gift, was married to Theodore

Ayers. They had no children. She died May 18, 1906, aged 45 years and is buried at New Tripoli, Lehigh county, Pa. She was well educated and a highly respected lady. The wife of Daniel S. Gift died in October 1888, aged 44 years. She is also buried in the New Tripoli cemetery. Within a reasonable time he married his second wife, Miss Flora Semmel. There were no children from the second marriage. His second wife died March 30, 1906, aged 66 years and 2 months. She is buried in Greenwood cemetery, Allentown, Pa. Mr. Gift still survives her and resides at No. 815 Turner St., Allentown, Pa.

William, son of Andrew Gift, was born August 5, 1816 and was united in marriage with Julianna Schmeier. They resided in Macungie township, Lehigh county, Pa. His occupation was farming. They were blessed with the following children: Eliza Rebecca, William Alfred, Joseph Addison, Sarah C. Wilson M. and Mary Ida.

Eliza Rebecca, was married to Lewis Sensenderfer. She died in about 1888. Their children were Emma (deceased) Annie, William, Irene, Carrie, John and Irwin.

William Alfred, son of William Gift (deceased) was married to Miss Lucy A. Seidel. They had no children.

Sarah C. daughter of William Gift was married to Charles Defenderfer. Their children were William (deceased) George, Mamie, Charles, Wilson and Earl.

Joseph Addison, son of William Gift, was married to Mary Levan. Their children were Beulah L., Annie, Ada A., Robert, William and Mary A.

Wilson M., son of William Gift, was born May 14, 1854. He united in marriage with Miss Angelina Schultz, residing at No. 137 South 8th street, Allentown, Pa. He is the senior member of the Allentown Crockery Company, doing a large wholesale business at that place. They were blessed with the following children: Henry W., residing in Philadelphia. He is a photographer. Walter J., Claude R., Hazel A., Thomas, Charles, Robert F. and Ada May. The last four named died young.

Mary A., daughter of William Gift, was married to William Smith, who died some years ago. Their children were Oliver, Elda, Howard and Miriam.

Historical data by Thomas J. Gift, No. 762 Penn Street, Reading, Pa., from which the following is gleaned:

His great-grandfather was Peter Gift, Sr., the clockmaker at Reading, Pa. His grandfather was Frederick Gift, Sr., the second son of Peter, Sr., and his father was Frederick Gift, Jr. Frederick Gift, Sr., had nine children, two of whom had died. Among those living were Jonas, Isaac, Peter, Frederick J. and Elizabeth and three other daughters whose names cannot be given.



Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Gift, Allentown, Pa.

See History of Peter Gift, chap. II.



Jonas Gift, son of Frederick Gift, Sr., had seven sons and one daughter: Charles, Harrison, Robert, John, Herman, Isaac, William and Catherine.

Charles, first son of Jonas had six children viz: Chester, Luther, Frank, John, Thomas and Esta.

Harrison, second son of Jonas had two sons and one daughter, Wellington, Edward and Emma.

Robert Gift, third son of Jonas had seven sons: Ezra, William, Thomas E., Jonas, Amos, Robert, Lawrence and two daughters, Emma and Mary.

John, fourth son of Jonas had the following children: Oliver, Jacob, Oscar, John, George, Adam, Thomas, Katie, Alice, Quilla, Christina and Sallie.

Herman, fifth son of Jonas had five children: Frank, Elias, James, Emma and Mary.

Isaac, sixth son of Jonas had four children: Frederick, Katie, Annie and Louisa.

William, seventh son of Jonas Gift had four children by his first wife, Charles, Robert, Katie and Mamie, and two children by his second wife, William and Jennie.

Catherine, daughter of Jonas Gift married Daniel Null. This union was blessed with eleven children as follows: Benjamin, Daniel, Charles, William, Emma J., Mary, Clara, Ida, Annie, Katie and Carrie.

Isaac, son of Frederick Gift, Sr., had one son, John.

Peter H., son of Frederick Gift, Sr., had two sons and three daughters, Alfred W., Howard, Catherine, Clara and Annie.

Frederick Gift, Jr., had the following children: Harman, Peter, Frederick, Charles, Benjamin, John, Isaac, Robert, Harrison, William, Thomas J. Jr., Catherine Mary, Elizabeth and a son who died in infancy.

Peter, the second son of Frederick Gift, Jr., had one son Frederick, and one daughter, Emma.

Benjamin, fifth son of Frederick Gift, Jr., had three children: Charles, Emma and Euga.

The following is gleamed from the data furnished the writer by Alfred W. Gift, of No. 1007 Locust street, Reading, Pa. His great-grandfather was also Peter Gift, Sr., the clockmaker at Reading, Pa. His grandfather was Frederick Gift, who among others had the following children: Peter H. his father Jonas, and Isaac and three daughters; Mrs. Frederick Stricker, formerly of Milton, Pa.; Mrs. Moyer, of Allentown, Pa. and Mrs. Algaier, of Lexington, Ky. His grandfather, Frederick Gift, many years ago was the proprietor of the halfway house, so called because the hotel was located half way between Reading and Kutztown,

Pa. One morning Frederick left home with his team for Reading for business, stopping at the Farmer's hotel at Fifth and Washington streets. This was the last ever seen or heard of him. His family recovered his team and made strenous efforts to locate him but all in vain, and his mysterious disappearance is still in the minds of the older people.

Peter H. Gift, father of Alfred W., was also a hotel man. He built and kept what was known as the six mile house, being located six miles east of Reading on the Kutztown road. He had also conducted a hotel in Kutztown. Comrade Alfred W. Gift says that the Gifts in Berks and adjoining counties in Pennsylvania as a class are very patriotic, that nearly all who were able to perform military duties during the late war, enlisted and served their country creditably. Alfred enlisted and served four years and was honorably discharged. One of his sons served during the Spanish American War. He served in the third U. S. Vol. Engineer Reg't. Another son is now (1907) serving in the U. S. Navy on the Cruiser St. Louis, being on a six months cruise.

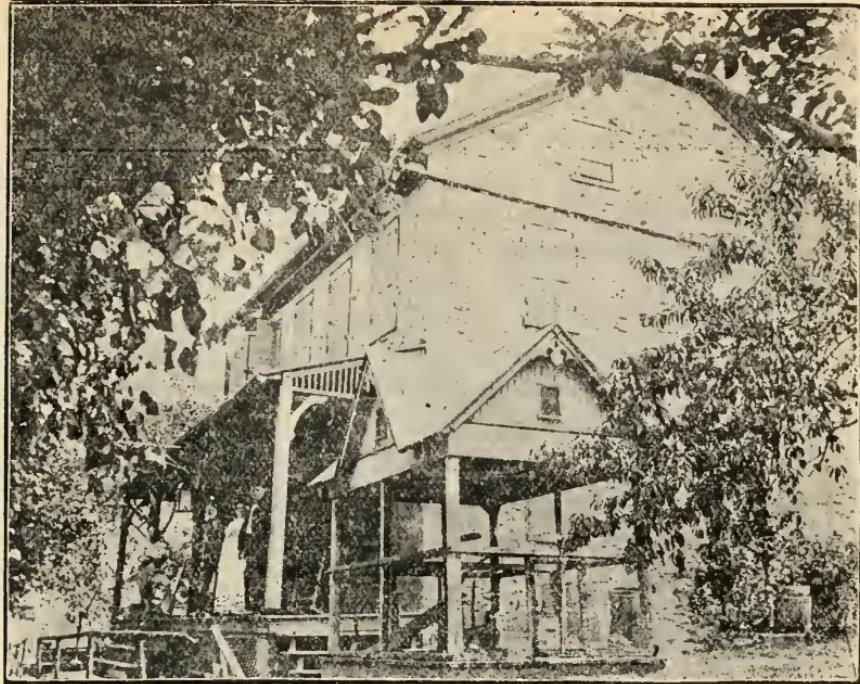
The writer of this history also served in the war of the Rebellion and was mustered out at the close of the war, August 29, 1865 and feels greatly interested in all his comrades and would like to make favorable mention of all the Gifts in Reading and vicinity, who so nobly responded to their country's call in time of need, but the relatives neglected to furnish the necessary data to give this information.

Howard W. Gift, of No. 1002 North 8th St., Reading, Pa., a son of Peter H. Gift, is a brother of Alfred W., Catherine, Clara and Annie Gift. Howard was married to Miss Catherine F. Merkle. Their children were Peter W. (now deceased) who left a widow and two children, Howard J., Mabel May and Victor A. Gift, who is married to Miss Ella Miller, Blanche K., Edward, who married Miss Mamie Fister, Irene E., Morris, Minerva, who married Newton Haag. Years ago Miss Gift was employed in the Reading silk mill, during a violent wind storm the building was partly wrecked. In this disaster many were hurt. Miss Gift was greatly shocked and sustained some injuries, but not of a dangerous nature.

Gertrude, tenth daughter of Howard W. Gift, married Allison Haag, Annie, married Edmund Becker, Katie, Sarah and May.

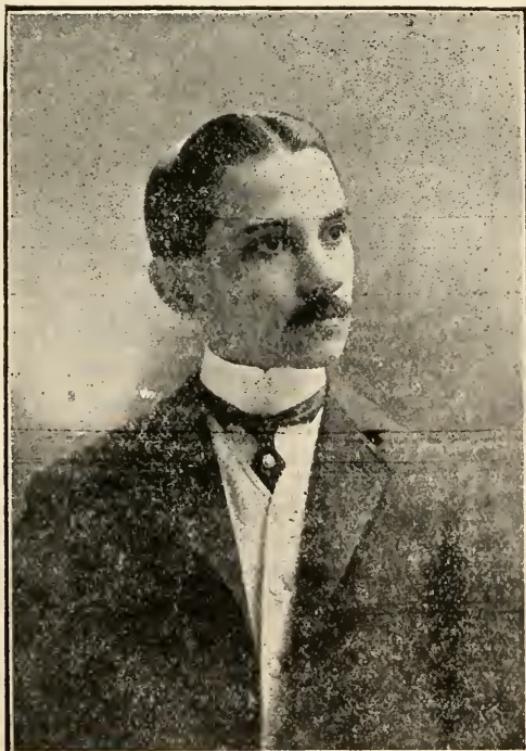
The historical data was furnished in part by A. J. Fink, of Hamburg, Pa.:

My great-great-grandfather on my mother's side was Peter Gift, Sr., clock-maker at Reading, Pa. My great-grandfather was Peter Gift, Jr., who was born February 1780, in Lynn township, Northampton (now Lehigh) county, Pa. He was married to Magdalene Moyer. About the time of their marriage they moved to Kutztown, Pa. They had seven children.



**Homestead of Peter Gift, Built by Him in 1850.**

See History of Peter Gift, chap. III.



**Henry W. Gift, Philadelphia.**

See History of Peter Gift, chap. III.



Joal, son of Peter Gift, Jr., died young. Peter, son of Peter Gift, Jr., lived to be an old man. He married Hetty Neff with whom he had five children. They lived and died at Reading, Pa.

William Gift, son of Peter Gift, Jr., was born at Kutztown, Pa., but later moved to Hamburg, Pa., where he died.

My father married Jane Gift, daughter of William Gift, I am her son and live at Hamburg, Pa. I am following the business of a long line of ancestors, that of clockmaking and jeweler.

Daniel Gift was a son of Peter Gift, Jr., but we know very little of his history; he is said to have been a cabinet maker.

Polly, daughter of Peter Gift, Jr., was married to John Yeager. They lived and died at Pine Grove, Pa. They had six children among whom are Hiram Yeager, of Reading, Pa., Alfred G. Yeager and a daughter who married a Mr. Wineland. Mr. and Mrs. Wineland lived and died at Reading, Pa. After the death of Mr. Yeager his widow lived with her daughter, Mrs. Wineland, where she died.

Harriet, daughter of Peter Gift, Jr., married Benjamin Gable. They had three children. They lived and died and are buried at Pine Grove, Pa.

Sara A. was the youngest daughter of Peter Gift, Jr. She was born April 30 in 1820 and died at Easton, Pa. about 1867. She was married to Isader Aicher. They had three children.

Albert Aicher, who also furnished historical data, was born at Reading, Pa., in 1848. He is a jeweler and lives at Mt. Sterling, Ky.

Frances Aicher lives at Phillipsburg, N. J.

Emma Aicher married Mr. Siegfried and lives at Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

My great-grandfather followed the occupation of his father that of clockmaker. Some of the clocks he made are still in existence. He must have had the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens for he was a member of the first town council in 1833 and again in 1837 was elected Burgess of Kutztown, Pa.

The following certificate is in possession of one of the family of William Gift, son of Peter Gift, Jr.:

"I do hereby certify that Mr. Wm. Gift has served for seven years as a volunteer under my command in a corps of infantry called Washington Guards of first Battallion, second Brigade, sixth division Penna. Militia and for his skill in military tactics and general conduct, I grant him this certificate." Daniel Bieber, Capt., January 3, 1839, Kutztown, Pa.

The following is a list of names of Gifts and their addresses residing in the city of Reading, Pa., most of whom are not mentioned in the foregoing genealogy of Peter Gift for want of the proper historical data, or information requested by the writer. The descendants by neglect or

otherwise failed to report, therefore in order to do justice to all as nearly as possible the following list is appended:

A. W. Gift, No. 1007 Locust St.; Edward Gift, 1002 N. 8th St.; Ezra Gift, 1237 N. 10th St.; Frederick Gift, 934 Pike St.; Frederick M. Gift, 1007 Locust St.; George Gift, 915 Moss St.; George Gift, 1454 N. 11th St.; Howard W. Gift, 1002 N. 8th St.; John Gift, 915 Moss St.; Widow Lizzie Gift, 940 N. 8th St.; Widow Louisa Gift, 934 Pike St.; Widow Lydia Gift, 1122 N. 10th St.; Widow Mary A. Gift, 1033 Locust St.; Oliver H. Gift, 625 N. 10th St., Thomas E. Gift, 241 S. 13th St.; Victor A. Gift, 1132 Oley St.; Wellington A. Gift, 1609 N. 10th St.; William A. Gift, 1033 Locust St.; Thomas J. Gift, 762 Penn St.; Peter Gift (deceased) 427 Laurel St., all of Reading, Pa.

#### Emigration of the Gift Families.

There is a tradition among a few of the descendants of Peter and Nicholas Gift that on account of political and religious persecutions, the three brothers, John Adam, Peter and Nicholas Gift among many others left the Palatinate country in the upper Rhine valley, South Germany, and came to France and were there known as French Huguenots. Afterwards they emigrated to America, landing at a seaport of North Carolina and going from thence northward into Virginia and Pa.

This traditional theory may be correct, but the writer of this history has not been able to verify its truthfulness as to the place of landing. Throughout his many and careful researches he did not find any other traditions, papers or records to substantiate the above theory. Again it may be doubted because Jeremiah Gift, grandfather of the author, who had extensive historical data and was well versed in family lore did not mention this particular tradition to his grandson in connection with much other family history that he did not mention. He surely knew the facts and knowing would scarcely have overlooked or forgotten such an interesting detail. There is strong evidence that the brothers landed at Philadelphia in 1750, and not in the south. By the records we find that soon thereafter they all settled in Northampton, now Lehigh county, about seventy miles above Philadelphia. As shown by the assessment lists they became taxable citizens in that county as already stated.

The name Huguenot is a French word formerly given to the adherents of the Reformed Protestant church to the Lutherans and to the calvinists.

The Palatinate is a country along the upper Rhine river in South Germany. I quote in part from a speech delivered by Hon. Benjamin K. Focht at the Hummel family reunion in 1907 and from the students cyclopedia from the library of H. S. Stetler, Middleburg, Pa.: "Nowhere has nature been more lavish in bestowing its bounties and beauties than in that fair land of the Palatinate country. Here it was that our

German ancestors resided. The crimes committed in the Palatinate for many years, were due to political persecution and to religious fanaticism against our German forefathers. This struggle makes the blackest pages in the whole world of war and strife. The fury and hatred of the German emperors and of the church of Rome, were first visited upon the Palatinate, because the inhabitants had embraced the tenets of the reformation followed by Martin Luther and other reformers in defiance of the church of Rome. Following come thirty years war for religious freedom which terminated successfully, but scarcely had this ended when Louis XIV, of France, in 1688 sent his armies of invasion against the Germans. The monstrous crimes committed by his soldiers stagger belief. The whole country was pillaged and made a heap of charred ruins. Towns and cities were laid in ashes and the inhabitants murdered. We have thus touched upon the origin of our ancestors, the Germans, from whom all we, the Pennsylvania Germans in the United States spring. Their trials for a thousand or more years, were indeed great before they began to emigrate to America.

Now how did it happen that they turned their faces towards this continent instead of some other locality? We can understand why they were willing to go most anywhere to secure political and religious liberty, but that it required a strong heart, trust in God and an opportunity before such reliefs could be offered, must also be understood.

At this critical period James II, of England, abdicated the throne and was succeeded by William of Orange. This prince had a warm feeling for the Germans of the Palatinate country of the Rhine. There resulted a declaration of war on Louis of France. The butchery was renewed by the French and practised in a way that is indescribable. It was from 1701 to 1713 that emigration from the Palatinate began in earnest and continued without interruption for nearly seventy-five years.

King Louis, of France, furnished the cause for this immigration by his butchery which drove these honest christian Germans from their home, the Palatinate, while Penn on this side of the ocean furnished them an asylum. When William the III died in 1702 and was succeeded by Queen Anne. The Germans in Pennsylvania found in her a new and enthusiastic friend who assisted many of them to come to this country.

The German settlers of Pennsylvania were a self-reliant, energetic people, well adopted to meet and endure the trying hardships of frontier life. The majority of them were religious people, of the Reformed or Lutheran faiths. They instituted good homes and good government. They early established churches and schools. Their leaders and pastors were usually men of pronounced leadership, having great natural abilities, highest culture and spotless character. They ever imbued their followers with the sterling principles of honesty, uprightness, frugality and thrift. These qualities have been transmitted from generation to generation and have made the Pennsylvania German an element of no mean order in the development of our common country.





The Old Farm Homestead of John Nicholas Gift, Built in 1824.

See History of Nicholas Gift, chap. IV.

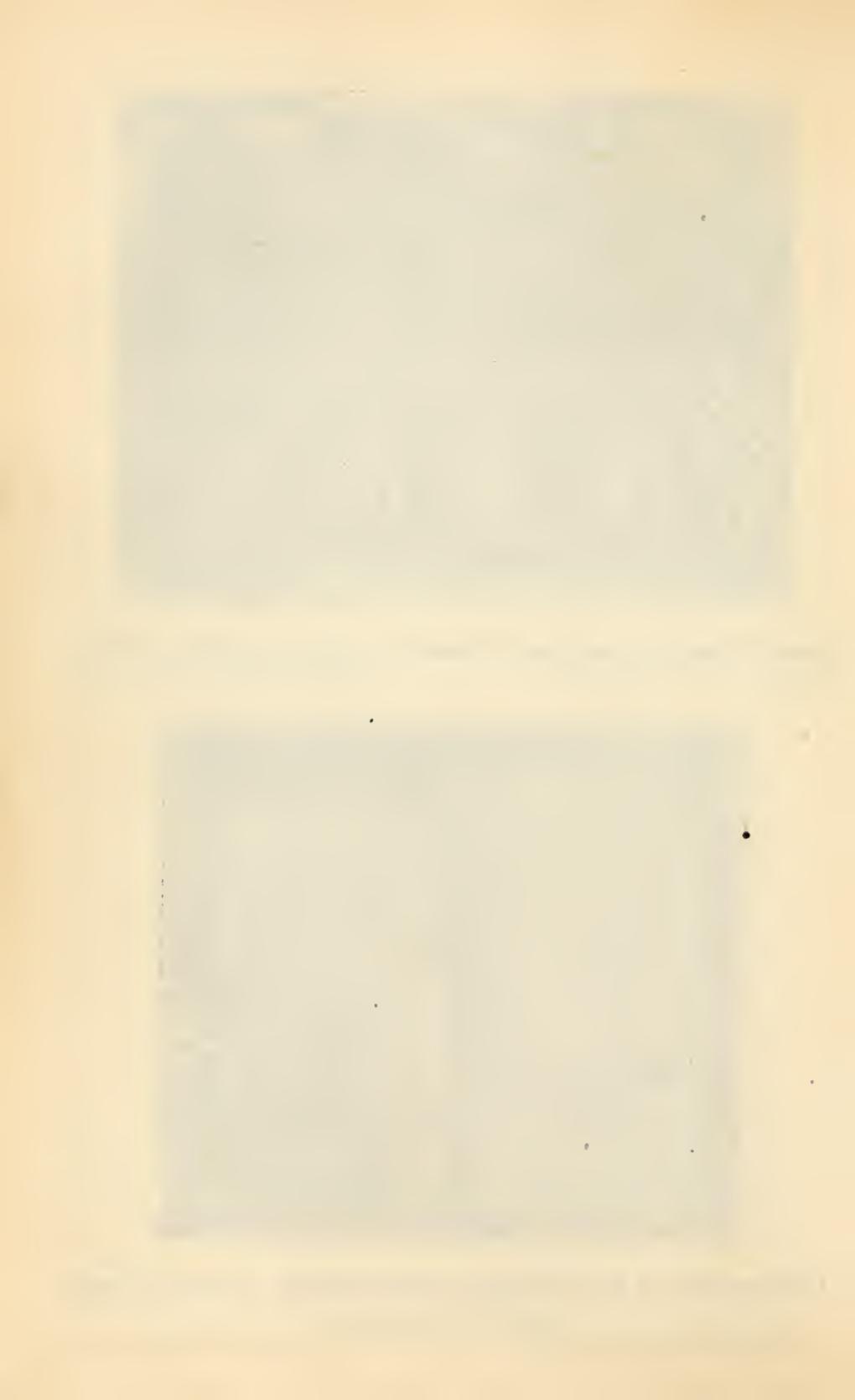
Photo by F. M. Gift, Sept. 15, '08



Gravestones of John Nicholas Gift and Wife, Found in Saint Paul Churchyard.

See History of Nicholas Gift, chap. IV.

Photo by F. M. Gift, Sept. 15, '08



# HISTORY OF NICHOLAS GIFT AND HIS POSTERITY

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## CHAPTER FOUR

In 1750 Nicholas and his two, brothers Johan (John) Adam and Peter Gift emigrated from Germany to America.

Nicholas Gift, the youngest of the three brothers, settled in Weisenberg township, Northampton county, (since the division of counties in 1812 this township is within the territory of Lehigh county, Pa.) His two brothers, John Adam and Peter Gift, about the same time also settled in Northampton, now Lehigh county. The exact date, however, can not be given, but the tax records show that Nicholas Gift was assessed in Weisenberg township, now Lehigh county, in 1755 and was so taxed up to about 1767. The amount of proprietary tax levied at an average per year were about 3£ 9s. and 4d.

Most of the historical data of the family of Nicholas Gift are lost by the oblivion of time. Therefore not much of his family can be given. It is however known that one of his sons was John Nicholas Gift, born April 13, 1758, supposed in Pa. This John Nicholas was married to Miss Regina Larose. They raised a large family. They were the grandparents of Hezekiah Gift, of Camden, Ohio, who have since died, aged about 83 years. Their history follows hereafter and by tradition the name of another son was "Adam." He lived and died near the Cove mountain close to the town of McConnelsburg, now the county-seat of Fulton county, Pa. Nothing is known of the name of his wife but Adam had the following children: Jeremiah, who was born in Pennsylvania about the year 1786, John, Adam Jr., George, Jacob, Mary and Rachel.

Tradition says that at an early date the original Nicholas Gift with his family left Northampton, now Lehigh county, Pa., and migrated to what was then known as the valley of the Conococheage, a large stream of water. This is an Indian name, Gu-ne-uk-is-schick meaning "indeed a long way."

This locality was then in Cumberland county, Pa., where on April 9, 1784, by an act of assembly. This county adjoins the state line between

Pennsylvania and Maryland. Some of the descendants of Nicholas Gift still reside there and near McConnelsburg, Fulton Co., Pa.

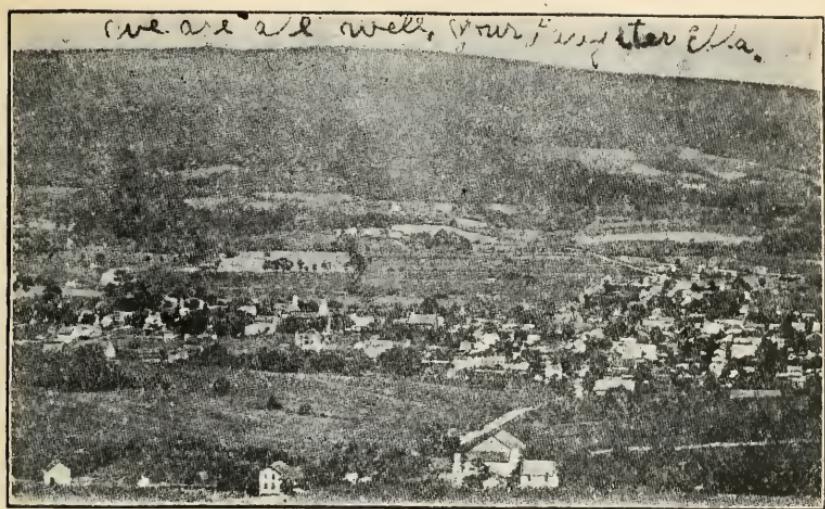
Much of the data relating to Nicholas Gift was obtained and preserved by the writer when a boy from the mouth of his grandfather, Jeremiah Gift, nephew of Nicholas. Jeremiah died in 1843, aged nearly 70 years.

The writer has been in correspondence with Hezekiah P. Gift, of Camden, Preble county, Ohio. He is now (1907) 82 years of age and writes a legible hand. Mr. Hezekiah Gift seems to be a hale, hearty old gentleman and betrays his happy disposition in the following extract from one of his letters. He says: "I raised a large family and had no other means of income except my work at the bench. The children are all grown, married and have left us and are doing well while mother and I are still living here together. We own a fine lot and a nice home here in Camden, Ohio. I was never a rich man, but always managed to make a good living. 'If it is a sin to be poor I am very guilty.' My great age doesn't permit me to do much manual labor, but I am not contented without doing some work. I dig and work my own garden. This is the way I do it. I dig a little while and rest a long while, then I dig another little while and then rest another long while. Finally I get my job finished and feel that it is well done. Like Dr. Franklin who said, 'If you want a thing done, send; if you want it well done go yourself.'" In conclusion he says, "The Gift family is noted for being an honest people and is respected as far as I know."

He also says: "My father's name was Jacob Gift, son of John Nicholas, who was my grandfather. He and his family lived for some years in the Conococheague valley, now in Franklin county, Pa. He then migrated to North Carolina. It is said he left one of his sons, Adam, in Pennsylvania, who resides near McConnelsburg, Fulton county, Pa., until his death. He raised a large family.

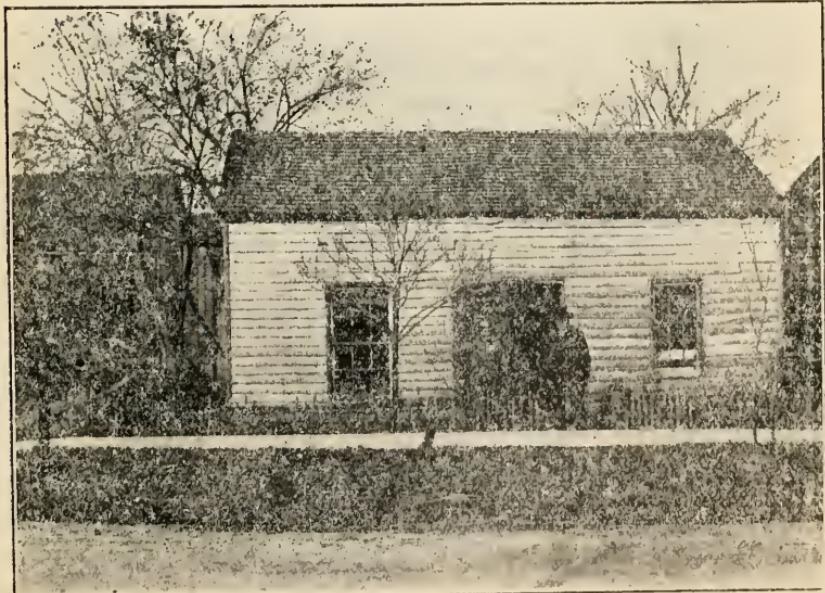
John Nicholas and family lived in Southern states, finally migrated to North Carolina and living there until 1804 when they migrated by means of wagon teams to Preble county, Ohio. During this long and slow trip they had to endure many hardships and privations. While on this journey Daniel, the youngest of John Nicholas' children was born. Arriving finally at their destination they found this Ohio country wild and sparsely settled, but well timbered and full of wild game. Some roving Indians were still to be seen.

John Nicholas is supposed was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Regina Larose. She died at the advanced age of 97 years. Her husband, John Nicholas, must have preceeded her to the spirit land. He was killed by a run-away team accident in the fall of 1825. He was the youngest of the three brothers. He had the following children as given by his grandson, Hezekiah:



Birds-eye-View of McConnellsburg, Pa.

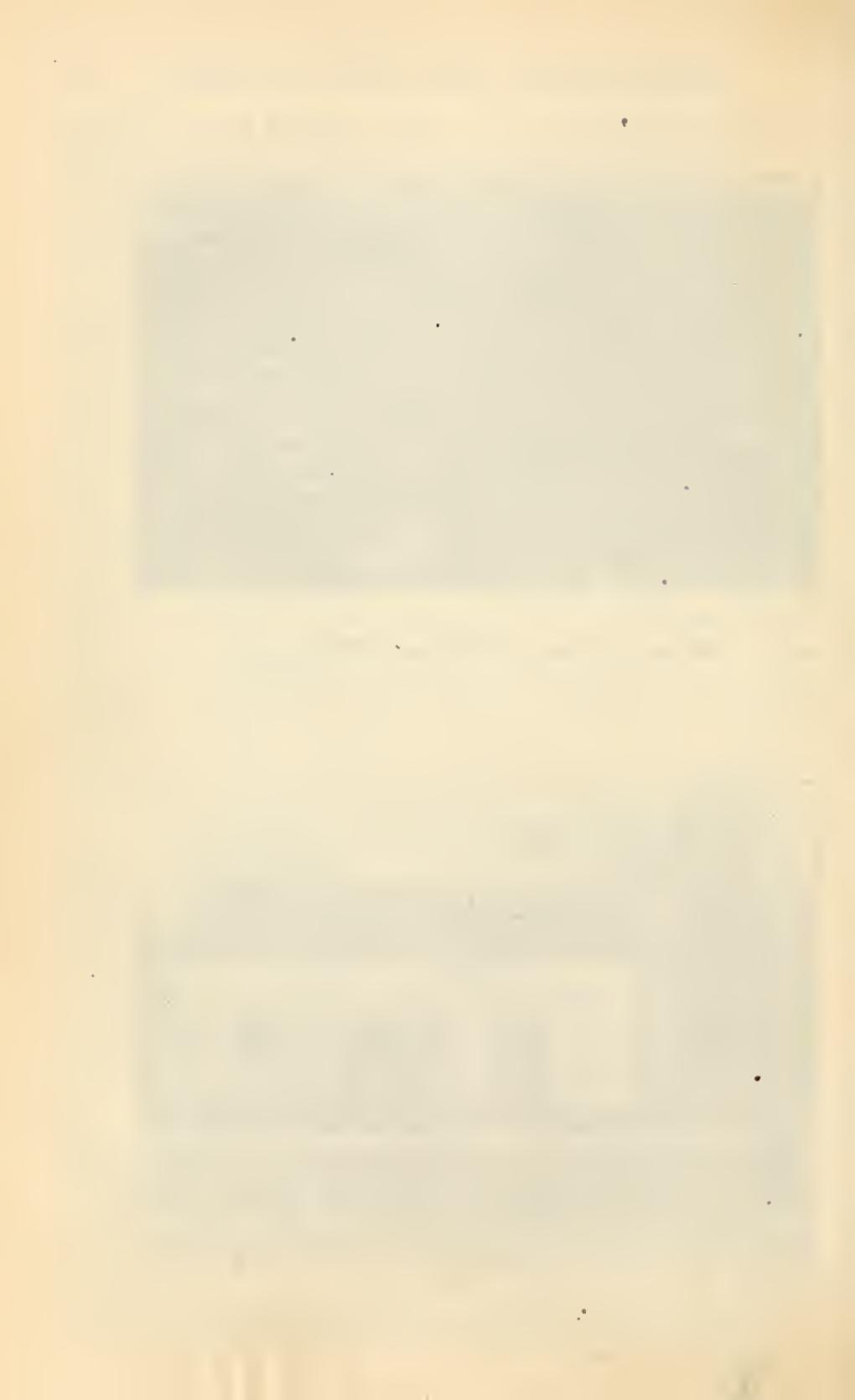
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Homestead of Hezekiah Gift, Camden, O.

See Nicholas Gift History, chap. iv.

Phot. by Elmer Gift, Sept. 1879



Jacob, the father of Hezekiah P.; Peter who was never married; David and Daniel both of whom raised large families and migrated to the Wabash country, Indiana and all died there. It is known that Adam Gift, one of John Nicholas brothers did not emigrate to North Carolina, but remained at McConnelsburg, Fulton county, Pa.

The daughters were Susan, Katie, Elizabeth, Sally and one who married a man named Nat. (probably Nathaniel) Tailor. Two of John Nicholas' daughters married two brothers viz: Lewis and Daniel Phillips. My father Jacob, was the eldest of the sons who emigrated west with his father's family. He was born Feb. 22, 1786. In 1804 when they emigrated to Ohio he was past 18 years old. My father married and had a family of eleven children. I was born August 11, 1826. I remember having seen my grandfather Nicholas, once before he was killed, but it seems almost like a dream now. I am the oldest representative of our branch of the Gift family in this locality except a brother who is five years older than myself and who is now in his dotage. My wife and I were married November 14, 1847. Our health considering our advanced ages is good. We have grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Hezekiah P. Gift has a nephew F. M. Gift, living at Warsaw, Indiana. He and a man named Thornton are extensively engaged in the lumber business at that place. Calvin, a son of John Gift and relative of Hezekiah is living at Eaton, Ohio.

John S. Gift, residing at Lemaster Station, Franklin Co., Pa., deceased, who was in correspondence with the writer gives the following information in substance: "My father's name was Andrew and my grandfather's was John Gift, a descendant of Adam, who was beyond doubt a son of Nicholas Gift, who with his two brothers, John Adam and Peter came from Germany in 1750.

Adam resided at McConnelsburg. He had the following children: John, Jeremiah, Adam Jr., George, Jacob, Mary and Rachael. John, my grandfather was married twice. There were eleven children to the first union, three to the second. The names of the first were David, born June 8, 1807; Andrew, born Oct. 28, 1808, from whom John S. Gift was descended; Elizabeth, born Nov. 8, 1810; Adam Jr., born June 8, 1812, Rachael, born June 19, 1814; Margaret, born May 8, 1816; John, born Nov. 29, 1817; Jacob, born April 11, 1819; George, born in the same month and year the two being twins; Catharine, born April 26, 1821; Mary Gift, the youngest was born May 1, 1823.

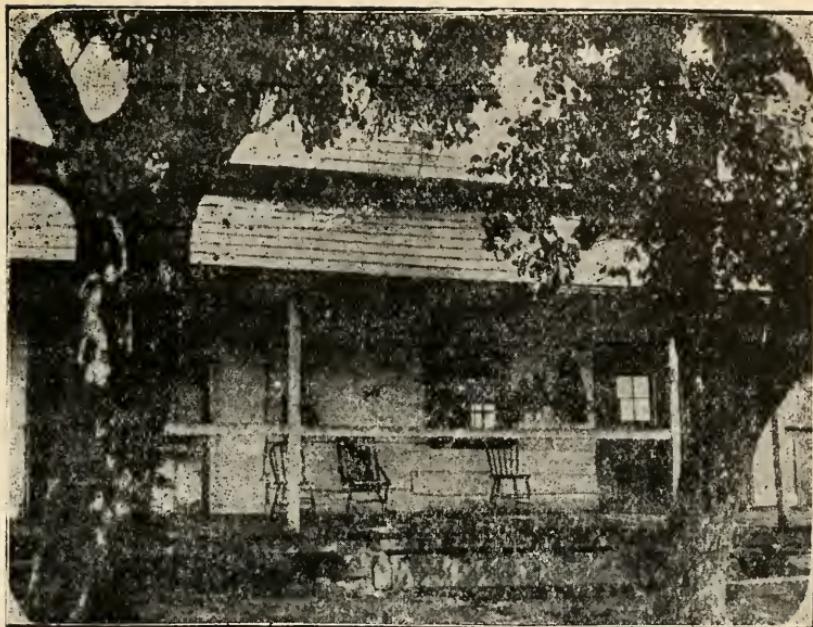
John Gift, John S. Gift's grandfather, after marrying his second wife, migrated from McConnelsburg, Pa., it is believed to the vicinity of Zanesville, Ohio. The names of the children by the second union could not be given by John S. Gift, but one "Jeremiah" is given by Hiram S.

Mason, supposed to be one among the three of the second wife.

John S. Gift says: "My grandfather John, after marrying his second wife was accidentally killed while he and his son George, were making a clearing on their farm; a tree lodged for them, they cut another so as to fall across the lodged one to break it down. It did not break it down, however, but slid down to the foot of the first tree. Grandfather went away a few steps when the butt of the tree caught him and he was killed instantly. This sad incident was related to John A. Gift, by his uncle George, the one who was assisting and saw his father die."

John S. Gift further says: "I have spoken of John and Jeremiah Gift, I will now say something of George and Jacob before the death of their father Adam. They bought the old homestead farm located in McConnelsburg, Pa., containing about 400 acres. After the death of their father, they sold out and moved to Iowa. Here both died. Most of their descendants still remain there. Of Adam Gift, Jr., I can not give any history. Mary and Rachael I think made their homes in Wisconsin; I can give no further history concerning them. Concerning the able history by Hiram H. Mason, of Zanesville, Ohio, furnished to our historian as to Jeremiah Gift. I will add as follows: Jeremiah was born near McConnelsburg, Pa., about 1786 and not in 1792 as friend Mason makes it. Jeremiah came from Fulton to Franklin Co., Pa. Here he was working at Mt. Pleasant, now Richmond, drawing iron in the Forge at that place. My grandfather John Gift, also lived there at the same time. He belonged to an independent military company, commanded by Captain Dunn, who was quite a military man in his time. The war of 1812-14 was now on. Capt. Dunn offered the services of his company was accepted. My grandfather John, had a wife and two children. His brother Jeremiah, told him you have a family and I have none, I will take your place and become your substitute. This company with its Regiment took part in the battle of Lundy's Lane, where Jeremiah Gift was wounded in the leg below the knee. He carried a British ball in his flesh for over 61 years.

In order to make John S. Gift's sketch more clear I gleam from data of Hiram H. Mason, of Zanesville, Ohio: "My grandfather Jeremiah Gift, married an Irish girl, named Jane Law and came to Zanesville, Ohio, bought a farm near that place, built a house and was in the coal business for a number of years. He lived there until all his children were grown and left home. Then by mutual consent he and his wife parted, she living afterwards with her daughter Selena, until her death. From recollection of my uncle Andrew Jackson Gift, familiarly known as "Jerry" traveling around considerably and in the late sixties or early seventies came to the home of Uncle Jack in Wisconsin. He left there saying he would go to Pennsylvanian to visit a brother and uncle, but uncle Jack never heard of him afterwards.



**Grandpa Gift's House on Marietta Road, Ohio.**

See History of Nicholas Gift, chap. iv.

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**Hezekiah P. Gift.**

See History of Nicholas Gift, chap. iv.

$\lambda \phi^2$

$\phi^2$

$b_1$

We now return again to information furnished by John S. Gift, who in turn received it from his uncle George: "Still relating to the wandering life of Jerry Gift, which reads almost like a romance. I only heard him speak of two sons who were soldiers in the Civil war and never returned. Jerry Gift sold his farm near Zanesville, Ohio, and went to Missouri from there to Kansas thence to Iowa. Here he bought an 80 acre farm on which he settled and spent the summer on this new home." In the fall he gathered in wood for fuel for the coming winter. Soon after that a deep snow fell. He was obliged to remain in the house and as this locality was thinly settled he did not see a living person until February. In the spring he bought a home in town (name not given.) The ensuing fall he became very sick. A family near by came to nurse him and finally took him to their home. He got worse and was not expected to recover. His mind was in such a state that he did not know what he was doing. This party got him to sign a deed making his property over to them. He however recovered his health and discovered the fraud. He protested and put the case into the hands of an attorney. The historian never learned the final result of this case, but it is presumed that he never recovered his property. Jerry Gift left Iowa for Wisconsin and became an inmate of the National Soldiers' home at Milwaukee. At this late date it is not known how long he remained at this home, but after a certain time he clandestinely left it, after which the authorities at the home and his relatives in Ohio and Pennsylvania made great efforts to trace him. The writer A. K. Gift, received a notice of Jerry's absence, but at the time could not assist. Finally on Dec. 24, 1877, he reached Franklin county, Pa., near his birthplace and made his home with John S. Gift at Lemasters, Pa. Here he remained until April 1, 1878, when he left and went to New Franklin, a few miles south-east of Chambersburg, Pa., where he died in August 1878 and is buried there. His age was 91 years. When Jerry left the home of John S. Gift it was his intention to return and spend his remaining days with his grand-nephew, John S. Gift, but death changed all this. It was said of Jerry Gift that he was a good and patriotic soldier, honest and kind to all his fellow men.

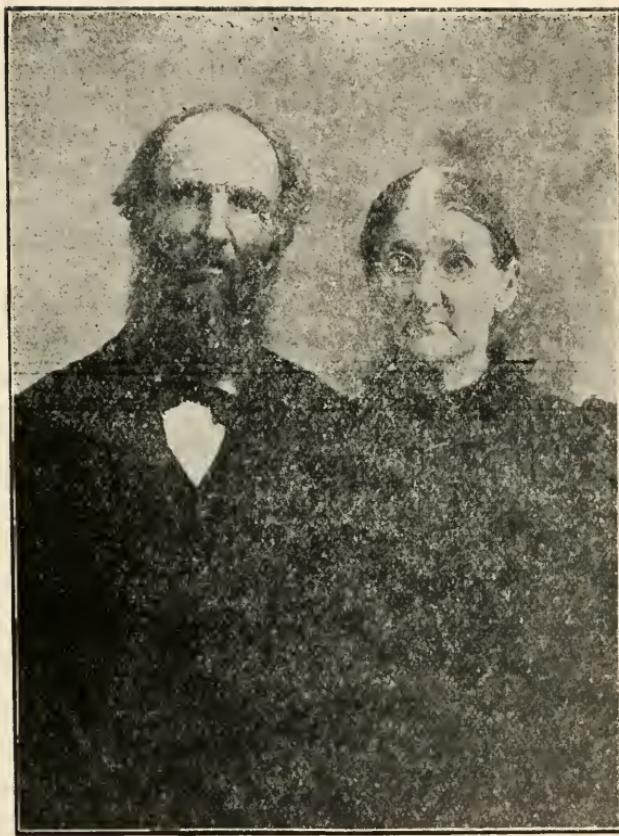
JOHN S. GIFT'S DEATH—After being in declining health for several years, John S. Gift, one of the best known citizens of Peters township, died August 24, 1867. He was the son of Andrew Gift and Sarah his wife. The date of his birth was April 25, 1841; his age was 67 years. He had always taken an active interest in the affairs of his township. He was an honest, upright man and of high moral character. In politics he was a democrat and often served his party in township offices and was frequently a delegate to county conventions. He was a veteran of the civil war, having been a member of the 209th Infantry Penna.

Volunteers. His record was a creditable one. As a school teacher he was perhaps best known. He taught in the public schools of Peters township for a period of thirty-three years. He was a faithful and conscientious instructor and one who was always very popular with his pupils. Because of his knowledge of real estate, irrespective of party, for twenty years he was elected assessor of his district. He was also assistant secretary of the Peters township school board for many years. Mr. Gift was always among the first to make his returns to the county commissioners, while he served as assessor. He was a well-read man, always keeping in touch with the events of the day, and during his entire life had been a subscriber to the "Valley Spirit" published in Franklin county from which the foregoing sketch is gleaned almost entirely. He was married Dec. 25, 1860 to Miss Margaret E. Haun, who was born March 12, 1841. She was a daughter of Joseph and Julia Haun. Besides his wife he is survived by these children: Mrs. Ellen Fisher, of St. Thomas; George Gift, of near Mercersburg; William, in one of the western states; Mrs. Geary Selix, of Chicago; Edward Gift, of Lemasters; Miss. Minnie and Elmer E. Gift at home, also by one brother, Jackson Gift, residing in Virginia. John S. Gift's earthly remains are interred in Etter's cemetery.

The following history is furnished by Hiram H. Mason, Zanesville, Ohio, who received it from the recollections of his uncle Andrew Jackson Gift, known commonly as "Uncle Jack." The following sketch corroborates in a measure the foregoing history given by John S. Gift, deceased:

"Uncle Jack said that his grandfather came from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania, but did not know in what year, but that his name was Adam Gift." By the author: "It is almost beyond any doubt that this Adam was one of the sons of Nicholas Gift, who in 1750 came over from Germany with his two brothers, John Adam and Peter and all three settled in Northampton county, now Lehigh county, Pa., and as the records say, paid taxes in that county. (See history of Nicholas Gift, page 1.)

Uncle Jack says the children of said Adam Gift as near as he could remember, were Jeremiah, born in Pennsylvania about 1792, (John Gift says this occurred in 1786). The others were John Adam, Jr., George Jacob, Mary and Rachael. My grandfather, Jeremiah, (Jerry), married an Irish girl named Jane Law. Their issue was, John Gift, born in 1817. He was married to Mahaley Rickett; Adam, son of Jeremiah Gift, born 1820, married Jane Wise; Eleanor Gift, born 1822, unmarried; George, born 1825, married Ellen Greiner; Andrew Jackson, born 1827, married to Phoebe Norris; Mary Ann, born 1829; married to Thomas Joseph; Salena, born 1832, married first to James Cockerell;



**Andrew Jackson Gift and Wife, Nee Phoebe Norris.**  
See History of Nicholas Gift, chap. IV.



second to a man named Emerick; Mark, born 1834, no further history given; Lovina, born in 1837; William Gift, born 1839, married Savilla McIntyre.

John Gift's children were Thomas and Minerva. Thomas married a lady named Potter. Minerva married Jeremiah Burchinald.

Adam's (son of Jeremiah) children were George Washington, who died in infancy; Elbert Jerome lived to be 17 years old.

George's children were Eliza, who married a man named Shannon, living at McLuney, Perry county, Ohio.

Andrew Jackson's, Sr., children were Jonathan, who married Emeline Hook, living at Laforge, Wisconsin.

Albina married Lewis D. Harris and lives at Laforge, Wisconsin.

Mary Ann married Thomas Joseph. Her children were William Joseph, was married but cannot name lady.

Charles Joseph was married but cannot name wife.

Lillian E. Joseph was married three times, but cannot give names of her husbands.

Hattie Joseph married James Spragg. Aunt Mary and all her children lived at Silver City, Iowa, until the death of her husband which occurred several years ago; since that time it seems they moved to some locality in California.

Selena had the following children: William Cockerell, who was married but cannot give name of his wife. William disappeared several years ago and has not since been heard from.

Lovina, daughter of Jeremiah Gift died April 5, 1865. She was married to George Mason. This union was blessed with the following children: Martin Fulton Mason, born October 20, 1858. He was married to Miss Lizzie Clark, who died several years ago in Denver, Colorado, without issue.

Martin Mason now living in Allegheny, Pa.

George Edward Mason born June 2, 1860, was accidentally drowned July 9, 1876.

Hiram H. Mason was born Jan. 12, 1862. He was married to Miss Hattie Kildow and resides at Zanesville, Ohio. He is an official on the Cincinnati & Muskingum Valley R. R. Co.

Charles Mason was born October 1863 and died in 1864.

William Gift married Miss Savilla McIntyre in the evening. The next morning he went to the civil war and was never heard from again. There was no issue.

Mark Gift, the last we ever heard of this son was that he was running a large tobacco warehouse in Louisville, Ky. Since we have never been able to locate him or his family.

Andrew Jackson (Jack) Gift's children: Jonathan, a son of Andrew

Jackson also Edward Gift and another son both died in infancy.

Thomas Leroy married Elsie Burt. They live at LaFarge, Wis.

Tessie Anna, married Arch Davidson, are living at Lafarge, Wis.

Mittie M., married Jacob Harris and lives at Lafarge, Wis.

Hattie Lorenna married a man named Langely; they also live at Lafarge, Wis.

Albina S., daughter of Andrew Jackson, named above, had the following children: Alwilda Harris, who was married to Charles Dennymiller, and is living at Lafarge, Wis.

Willard Harris married Minnie Kimbalk and is living at Lafarge, Wis.

Cora Harris married Albert Calhoun and is living at Lafarge, Wis.

Leona Harris married to Edward Clark and lives at Dell, Wis.

James Harris, single, lives at Lafarge, Wis.

Leroy Gift, son of Jonathan named above, had one daughter "Ansill" living at Lafarge, Wis.

Tessie's children, daughter of Jonathan Gift, named above.

Beulah Esther Davidson lives at Lafarge, Wis.

Verna Opal Davidson died in infancy.

Mittie, daughter of Jonathan Gift, named above had the following children:

Herbert Harris lives at Lafarge, Wis.

Edo Harris lives at Lafarge, Wis.

Alwildie, daughter of Albina Harris named above, raised an adopted son named "Charles Miller." He lives at Lafarge, Wis.

Cora, a daughter of Albina Harris, had the following children: Agnes, who died in infancy; Daniel Calhoun, who lives at Lafarge, Wis.; Andrew Jackson Calhoun, lives at Lafarge, Wis.

Purley Calhoun lives at the same place.

Jessica Nerissa Calhoun lives at Lafarge, Wis.

Leona, daughter of above Albina Harris had the following children: Chloe Clark, living at Dell, Wis., and Josie Bella Clark, living at the same place.

Hiram Mason, now of Zanesville, Ohio, was a son of Lovina, daughter of Jeremiah Gift. Hiram had the following children:

William Ward Mason, born May 4, 1885, married Julia Davy, resides at Zanesville, Ohio.

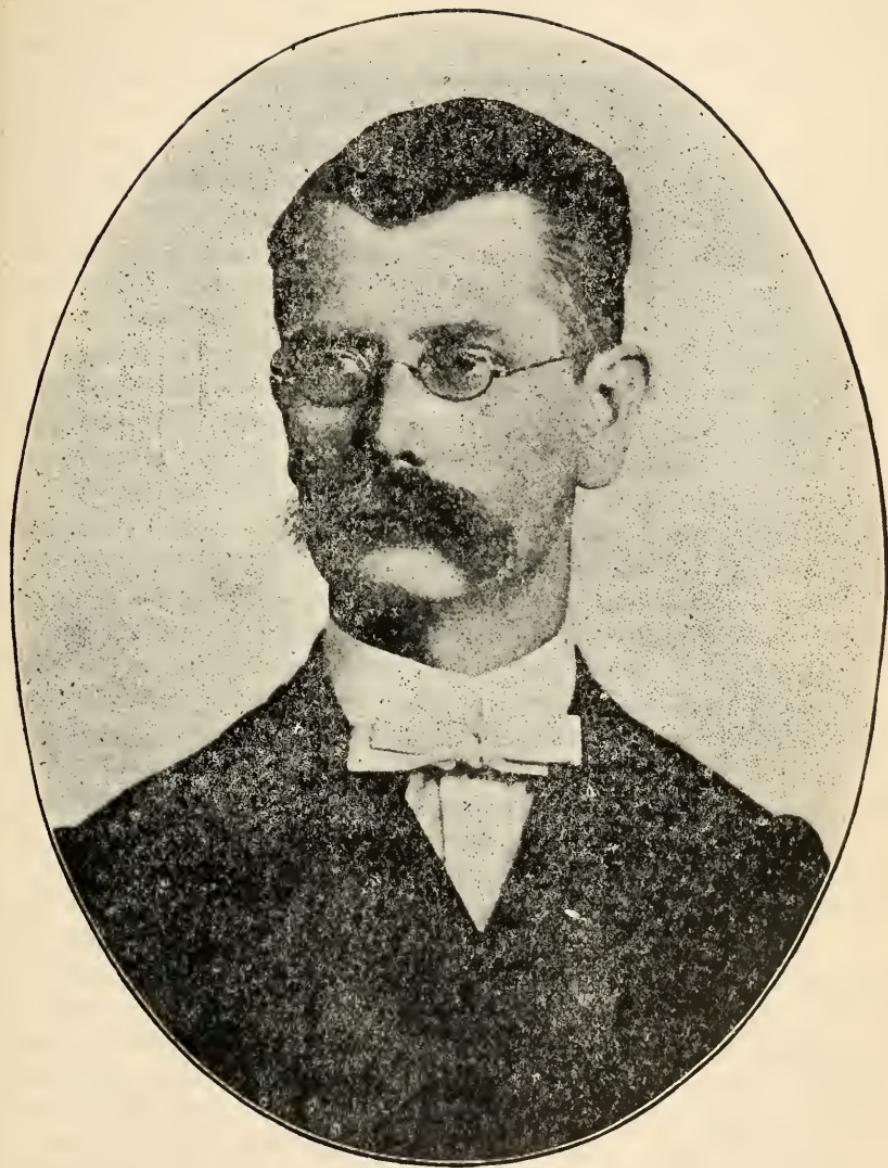
George Eber Mason, born June 2, 1888, lives at Zanesville, Ohio.

Hiram Russel Mason, born Sept. 16, 1895, also lives at Zanesville, O.

Margaret Harriet Mason, born Feb. 1, 1901, lives at Zanesville, Ohio.

When we last heard from Uncle George Gift he was in St. Louis, Mo., and later were informed that he died there in the Soldiers' Home.

Julian Gift, of Athens, Ohio, with the assistance of his mother furnished the following data: "Jeremiah B. Gift and his wife Jane, were



Hiram H. Mason, of Zanesville, O., Son of George Mason  
and Lovina, His Wife.

See Nicholas Gift History, chap. iv.



my parents. My father was born in Perry county, Ohio, March 10, 1838 and died April 3, 1895.

John Gift was my grandfather. He was born in 1817 and died in 1896, aged about 79 years. He was married to Miss Mahaley Rickett." Julian Gift says: "We can only give a few of my grandfather's brothers and sisters as follows: Adam, son of Jeremiah, was married to Jane Wise; Andrew Jackson, commonly known as Jack Gift, was born in 1827, was married to Pheobe Noris; William, born 1839, was married to Sevilla McIntyre, and Lovina born in 1837. She married George Mason. The above are some of the children of Jeremiah, commonly called Jerry Gift. He was the great grandfather of Julian Gift and was born about 1786 near McConnelsburg, Pa. He married an Irish lady named Jane Law. They raised a family of many children. This Jeremiah (Jerry) Gift, was a son of Adam Gift who lived and died near McConnelsburg, Pa. Tradition says this Adam Gift was a brother of John Nicholas and son of the original Nicholas, who with his two brothers John Adam and Peter came from Germany 1750 and first settled in Northampton now Lehigh county, Pa. The writer has examined the assessments in that county and found that the three of the brothers paid taxes in that county. A more elaborate history of Jeremiah (Jerry) Gift and his wanderings is given elsewhere in this book.

Charles Gift resided at Fairfield, Iowa. He was a successful school teacher and afterwards was engaged in the harness business. He also held a county office for some time. Charles Gift died August 1898. Before his decease he and the writer had some historical correspondence.

Charles was a son of Adam Gift, Jr. Katharine McWhinney (nee Gift) of Washburn, Woodford county, Ill., is the only one now living of Adam Gift's children. She is a sister of Charles.

Mrs. Margaret Gift, widow of Charles still survives her husband (1907) and resides at Fairfield, Iowa. The writer is informed that this union was blessed with one son and three daughters.

Charles Gift says: "I am the youngest of my father Adam Gift's Jr. family. William, the eldest lives near Ottaway, Iowa. He has three sons. Elizabeth married a Mr. Duncan and lived near Fairfield, Iowa. Katharine, who is married to John McWhinney, resides at Washburn, Ill. George Gift, my uncle, had two sons and one daughter. His son, Ludwich, lives in the WallaWalla valley, Wash. His other son George, is not married. Jacob and George came to this state in 1850. Both had children. My uncle Jerry Gift, settled near Zanesville, Ohio, and had a large family." Charles Gift further said: "Samuel was a half brother of my father, Adam. When he was a young man he went to one of the southern states. My grandfather was Adam, son of Jeremiah Gift, Sr., who was born near McConnelsburg, Pa. In 1820 he was

married to Miss Jane Wise." This Adam Gift was a son of Jeremiah Gift, who was a soldier in the late war with England 1812-14. The ancestry of Jerry Gift farther back is the same as Julian Gift's and others already given.

The following is in part gleaned from a letter by Mrs. Katharine McWhinney, of Washburn, Ill., a sister of Charles Gift. She takes much interest in her ancestral history. She says: "My father Adam Gift, Jr., said that many years ago an Adam Gift and wife made us a visit. They lived in Iowa. After their children were all married they lived and died with their son J. M. Gift, at Eureka, Peoria county, Ill."

Two of Uncle Jacob Gift's sons are living in Kansas. One of Uncle's daughters lived at Fairfield, Iowa. She is married to Adam Ginn, formerly of McConnelsburg, Pa.

Uncle Ginn gave my grandfather, Adam, son of Jeremiah, a map showing our old farm, and the town of McConnelsburg, Pa. To look at this plan gave me much pleasure when I was young.

My father and mother were married in the state of Tennessee. They lived there several years. Two children were born to them, William and Margaret. They moved back to near McConnelsburg, Pa., where grandfather Adam, son of Jeremiah, owned a large farm, on a part of which my father and mother made their home. Here three other children were born to them, Elizabeth, Walter and Frederick. A few years later father and mother with their little flock moved back again to Allegheny county, Maryland, where my mother's family lived. Here it was that I and my brother Charles were born and here we remained until the fall of 1852. At that time I had arrived at "sweet sixteen" as the old saying goes, and Oh, my dear readers, the recollection of that sweet Maryland, my Maryland, shall never be effaced from my memory. When my elderly thoughts carry me back to the wild and sweet scenery, the woods, the mountains, the valleys, the meadows and the sweet cool springs of water. I was then full of life and happiness and many good expectations and hopes for my future life. But alas! many did not come. My brother Charles was then 12 years old. Here my parents sold all their property except their clothes and bedding and on the 4th day of October, 1852, we went by wagon team on our long journey of nine hundred miles. Our destination was Iowa. During this long trip we had to endure a great many hardships and privations. I was then full of health and vim. We took the bitter with the sweet.

On our trip we changed about as we could not all ride at the same time. We finally reached Wheeling, West Va. From here it had been our intention to travel by boat down the Ohio River, but alas! we found the river so low that boats could not run. So instead of "paddling our own canoe" as we should very much have liked to do, we were obliged

to "navigate" the remaining distance also, overland, in our dear old "Prairie Schooner." ("Prairie Schooner" the name by which the numerous canvas-topped wagons, carrying immigrants across the fertile and boundless plains, were then familiarly known.) We arrived at our destination, Jefferson county, Iowa, a few days before Christmas. We had been on this wearisome journey forty-seven days and were all very glad when it had ended.

Our family now consisted of father, mother, William, Margaret, Elizabeth, Charles and myself, my brothers Frederick and Walter having died long before we moved to Iowa. My father Andrew, died suddenly of heart failure, Jan. 18, 1868. His age was 73 years. My mother died the same year. Her age was 66 years. Thus passed to the Spirit World our last and long home, two of the best parents that ever lived.

I was married June 7, 1868 to John McWhinney in Fairfield, Iowa. My father and mother were both dead and as John's parents were living in Lacon, Ill., it was very natural that we should locate there also. We lived with them for a year and a half then went for ourselves. We lived in Lacon four years, then moved on a farm south of there where we remained and farmed until my health became poor. We moved here twenty years ago and will stay until the last move is made.

We have four children, James Gift, William Webster, Clara Elizabeth and Charles Frederick.

James Gift McWhinney is married to Evelyn Eikelbarner and is living in Washburn, Ill., where he is engaged in the grocery business.

William Webster McWhinney is married to Myrtle Willet, daughter of Harry Willett, of near Mifflin, Juniata county, Pa. They have three children, Irene, Kathryn Elizabeth and Wilma. William resides in Valparaiso, Ind. He is a mail clerk on the Pennsylvania line and runs from Chicago to Pittsburg.

Clara Elizabeth McWhinney is single and lives with her parents.

Charles Frederick McWhinney is married to Ethel Wineteer. They have one son whose name is LaVerne. Charles resides in Peoria, Ill., where he is an employe of the city Post Office.

HISTORY OF GEORGE GIFT AND HIS ANCESTORS: — George Gift, formerly resided at South Bend, Ind., and died about 1900. During his lifetime he furnished the historian with the following data:

He says: "My grandfather was Adam Gift, he lived and died on his farm at the foot of Cove Mountain, near McConnelsburg, Pa. By tradition this Adam Gift's father was Nicholas, the original progenitor of the Nicholas Gift branch. George's father John, was born near McConnelsburg, Pa. He was the grandfather of John S. Gift, of Lemaster, Pa., who died August 1908. This John Gift was married twice. There were

eleven children to the first union as follows: David Gift, born June 8, 1807, resided at Mt. Powell, Franklin Co., Pa.

Andrew J. Gift, born Oct. 28, 1808.

Elizabeth Gift, born Nov. 5, 1810.

Adam Gift, Jr., was born June 8, 1812, residing at Prairieburg, Linn Co., Iowa.

Rachael Gift, born June 19, 1814.

Margaret Gift, born May 8, 1816.

John Gift, born Nov. 29, 1817. He is the lost son and brother.

Jacob Gift born April 11, 1819, resides at Etna, Allegheny Co., Pa.

George Gift, born April 11, 1819, residing at South Bend, Ind., (now deceased.) Jacob and George Gift were brothers. (Catharine Wagner, of Warren Centre, Ind., was a daughter of George Gift, deceased.)

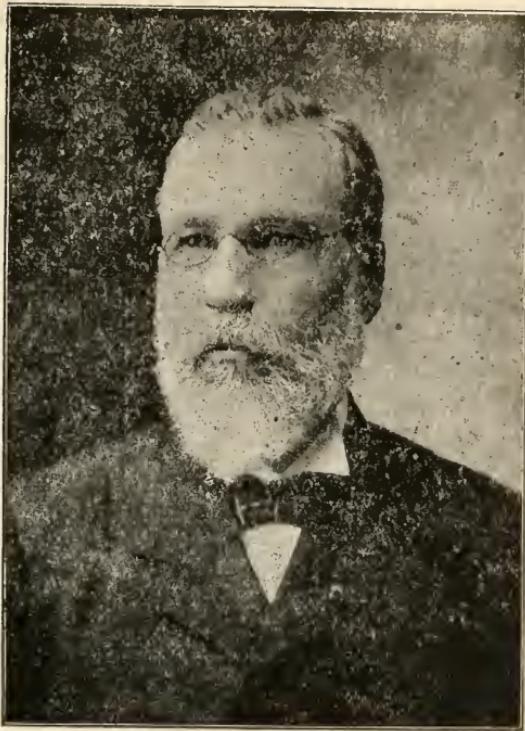
Catharine Gift, born April 26, 1821.

Mary Gift born May 1, 1823.

GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF CAPT. J. W. GIFT, OF PEORIA, ILL.—The following was obtained from J. W. Gift himself and other historical data of Nicholas Gift one of the three brothers who came from Germany about 1750. Nicholas Gift history after landing at Philadelphia is very meager. Among other facts we only know of two sons, John Nicholas and Adam. John Nicholas died in Ohio, Nov. 6, 1825. Adam, who by tradition and verified by other facts was the other son. He raised a family and lived and died at McConnelsburg, Fulton Co., Pa. This Adam Gift was the great-grandfather of Captain John W. Gift. John Gift born Nov. 29, 1817, a farmer by occupation and a son of Adam, was the grandfather of J. W. Gift. John was married twice. He had eleven children with the first union and three with the second. (See names of his children elsewhere in this history.) After marrying his second wife it is given he migrated from McConnelsburg, Pa., to the vicinity of Zanesville, Ohio. Here he and his son George, while making a clearing and felling a tree which lodged on another and slipping down to the foot of the first tree caught him, killing him instantly. The story of this sad accident was obtained from Uncle George Gift (the son who was by at the time of the happening) by his nephew John A. Gift, now deceased, of Lemaster, Pa., and is described more fully elsewhere in the history. (See data of John S. Gift.)

The following is transcribed from a letter from Capt. J. W. Gift, Peoria, Ill., Sept. 27, 1908, for which the writer is very much obliged.  
Dear Comrade A. K. Gift:—

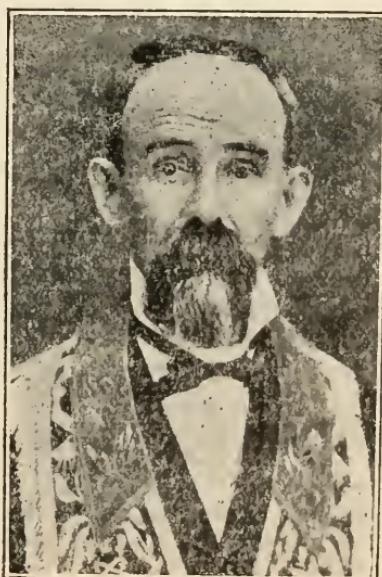
I received your letter of the 25th inst and will now give you all the information I can think of which may cover the questions of your letter.



Capt. J. W. Gift, Peori, Illinois.

See History of Nicholas Gift, chap. iv.

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Richard Gift, Hiawatha, Kan. Past Officer of the I. O. O. F.

See History of John Nicholas Gift, chap. iv.



My father's name was Adam Henderson Gift. He was a miller by occupation and was born near McConnelsburg, Pa., Nov. 29, 1813. He was raised by my grandfather, who I think had a large farm near Bedford, Pa. Father lived after his marriage to my mother, Miss Catharine Lyle (in about 1838) at Salona, Centre Co., Pa. He removed from Salona to Williamsport, Pa., where we lived for a great many years. Afterwards we lived at Larry's Creek, near Jersey Shore and later moved to Maquonete, Iowa. We also lived at Delhi, Iowa and also at Eureka, Ill. and Prairieburg, Iowa. My father lived with me about a year after I came to Peoria. Father died at Prairieburg, Iowa, in 1883 and mother died at Ruthven, Iowa, Sept. 1907, aged 90 years.

I, John W. Gift, was born at Salona, Centre, Co., Pa., May 6, 1840. My brothers were William H., who was killed at the battle of Black River, near Vicksburg, June 1863. Albert and James who died while children and Thomas who is married and is somewhere in Western Canada. I have five sisters, all living and all married; viz; Mrs. Fanny Grey, of Red Oak, Iowa; Mrs. Rebecca McNary and Mrs. Kate Batie, both of Ruthven, Iowa; Mrs. Margery Delancy and Mrs. Clara Cain, both of Winthrop, Wash.

My wife's maiden name was Sarah I. Miller. She died July 9, 1897. We were married at Delhi, Iowa, Nov. 1861. We had two sons, Frank H. and Charles H., who are both married and with me in the milling business. Frank H. has two sons, Lyle H. and Myron F., aged 15 years and 8 years.

My father was brought up by his grandfather, Adam; I presume it was because he was named after him. I think I saw my great-grandfather. When I was a boy my father and mother visited him and took me along with them. I never saw my grandfather; I think he was killed before I was born. Father had a half-brother named Senn. He made him a visit. Senn then lived at Mendota, this state. Father's relatives from Washburn, Ill. (which is only about thirty miles from here) also visited him and he used to visit his relatives at Fairfield, Iowa. I am 68 years old and am strong and well and able to attend to business every day. I also served in the Civil War. I went out as a private in April 1861 under the three month's call and was afterwards a captain of Infantry in the three year's service. I am a member of the Grand Army and also of the Loyal Legions.

I want to go back to Lycoming Co., Pa., sometime where I spent my boyhood days. When I do (and I hope too soon) I will come and see you. If you ever come west I shall be more than pleased to see you and make it pleasant for you.

Very truly yours,

J. W. GIET.

The attached newspaper sketch concerning Mr. J. W. Gift was taken from the "American Miller:"

### J. W. GIFT.

One of the very first men with whom the "American Miller" became acquainted, on being modestly ushered into an uncertain world in May, 1873, was J. W. Gift, then, we believe, running a mill at Macon, Mo. He extended the glad hand of welcome to the fledgeling then; he continued to encourage it through its earlier youth, and in these later days he has not failed in his friendship for it, so that he and his two excellent sons seem quite like "members of the family." It is not in the least of the editor's satisfaction that after nearly thirty years continuous reading, Mr. Gift is kind enough to say that "I feel it has helped me very much to make milling a success."

J. W. Gift, whose father was a miller before him, came into the world at Salona, Center county, Pennsylvania, in 1840, with a love of milling for its own sake bred in his bone and mind; and it is but the baldest credit to his progressive spirit to say that, so far as is known, he owned the first roller mill built in the winter wheat district of the United States. He has always aimed to keep on the very frontier of progressive milling, and to-day has one of the modern sifter mills in the country.

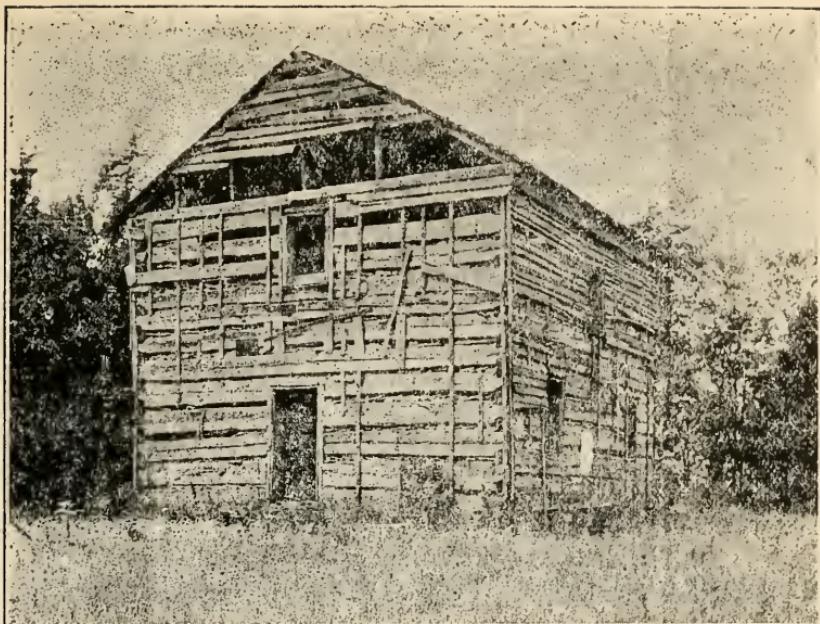
When Mr. Gift was just entering manhood, the Civil War broke out; and he has the honor of having belonged to the first regiment of Iowa Volunteers. Later he was made captain of a company of the 12th Iowa Infantry. His military career was cut short at the famous battle of Shiloh, where he was captured and sent into the heart of the Confederacy to spend seven months in military prisons. After leaving the army he rented a mill at Hopkinton, Iowa, which he relinquished to purchase a mill on Buffalo Creek, Marion County, Iowa. This also he sold, afterward purchasing at Monticello, Iowa.

In 1870 he left Iowa to go to Macon, Mo., where he first used the middlings purifier. Five years later he came to Illinois, having bought an interest in a mill at Eureka. In 1880 he went to Peoria and purchased the Globe Mills, now the Globe Roller Mills, which he has continuously operated for twenty years.

Mr. Gift has taken his two sons, F. H. and C. H. Gift, into the business with him, so that at least the third generation is committed to the service of the craft. As good millers can never be too numerous, may the Gifts "live long and prosper," and, after their careers of usefulness shall be ended, hand down their gifts to other generations to be good millers also.

### Supplement to Chapter 4—History of Nicholas Gift.

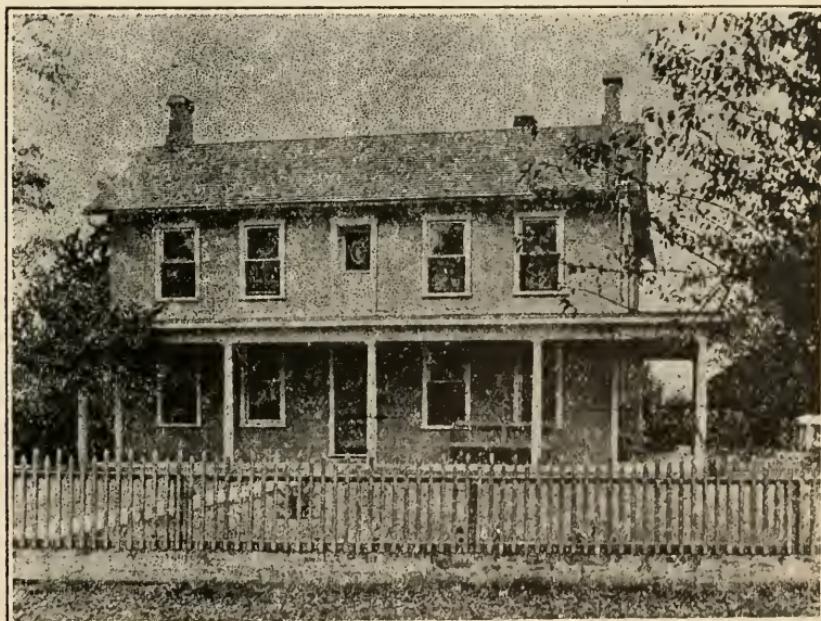
The following data came too late for incorporation at the proper place as the manuscript was already in the hands of the printer but we succeed-



**Old St. Paul Church (German Reformed), The Worshiping  
Place of John Nicholas Gift and Family.**

See History of Nicholas Gift, chap. IV.

Photo by F. M. Gift, Sept. 5, '08



**Jacob Gift Family Homestead Where He Lived and Died**  
See History of John Nicholas Gift, Chap. iv.



ed in having it inserted as supplemental to chapter IV (4.) In the main this material is corroborative of the data furnished by Hezekiah P. Gift, of Camden, Preble county, Ohio, and by John S. Gift, of Lemaster, Franklin county, Pa. There are a few discrepancies, however, that are likely to occur where history is transmitted by tradition instead of being preserved by authentic written records. The chief difference is that neither Hezekiah P. Gift, nor the following record mention a son of Nicholas of the name Adam. My grandfather used to mention such a son, who lived and died near McConnelsburg, now Fulton county, Pa., and I have received many letters from descendants making similar statements. This point, however, I am not able to make clear and harmonize unless the original Nicholas Gift had a son of the name Adam. This probably will be cleared up if the family bible spoken of is unearthed and examined.

John Adam, Peter and Nicholas Gift the three original brothers who came to America from Germany, and settled in the Eastern part of Pa. Nicholas being a mechanic (wagon-maker) engaged in farming and working at his trade. It is claimed that the records of Lehigh county show him to have been a taxpayer in 1755 and was so taxed up to 1767. Tradition and history has it, that Nicholas on account of the confused condition that then existed in the state over Governmental affairs; the war between Great Britain and France; the dispute between Lord Baltimore and William Penn, regarding the boundary line, each claiming the ownership of certain lands, thereby subjecting the settled to double taxation; that ever present Indian with his deadly tomahawk and torch; and the long predominance of the Quakers in preventing legislation for public safety, thus retarding prosperity, which made the pursuit of peace and happiness almost impossible. So in 1768, we find Nicholas moving to Virginia, thence to North Carolina.

John Nicholas Gift, born April 13, 1758 and died Nov. 6, 1825 was a son of Nicholas and came with his father to North Carolina, where in about the year of 1784 he married Regin Larose, who was born July 30, 1763 and died May 28, 1859. Some years after this event, he moved to Tennessee; thence to Ohio in 1804, locating on the south-east quarter of Section 3, Range 3, Township 4 (Gratis Twp.) Preble county, O. On June 12, 1817, John Nicholas Gift, his son Jacob Gift, Martin Sayler and Abraham Wimmer, whose farms connered, platted and founded the town of Winchester (now Gratis) Ohio, recorded in Vol. 2, page 223, Preble county records.

John Nicholas Gift, had prior to his death, erected on his farm one of the finest two-story brick houses in that part of the state; it still stands and is occupied to this day. During life he and his wife were devoted Christians of the German Reform denomination and they worshipped at

Saint Paul church (two-story and still standing) three and one-half miles east of Gratis, on the Germantown road, and it is in this church-yard that he and wife are buried.

Children of John Nicholas Gift are born in the order stated and names taken from the will on file: Susannah, Jacob, Catherine, Peter, Elizabeth, Marie, David, Salome and Daniel.

Hezekiah Phillips, from the best information this family came from England, settled in Massachuetts in 1761, thence to North Carolina; thence moved to the south bank of the Holston river, near Clinch mountain, Tennessee; thence to Winchester, (Gratis) Ohio in 1804. Hezekiah was a soldier in the Revolutionary, under Gen. Morgan, a division of Gen. Green's army and was wounded in the arm at the battle of Cowpens, North Carolino, Jan. 17, 1781.

Hezekiah P. Phillips and Catharine Lybrook were married in Tenn.

Children of Hezekiah Phillips were Catharine, Daniel and Lewis.

Jacob Gift was born Feb. 27, 1786 and died May 27, 1847 and Catharine Phillips was born July 4, 1792, were married at Winchester (Gratis) Ohio, in 1809. Came to Ohio with his father in 1804, and owned the south-west quarters of Section 3, Range 3, Twp. 4, and joined with his father in platting and founding the town of Winchester (Gratis) Ohio. On this farm Jacob erected a fine two-story brick house and to this day is considered one of the beautiful buildings in the neighborhood. Jacob and his wife and daughter Catharine, are buried in the old cemetery adjoining the town of Gratis.

Children of Jacob Gift were Peter, born Dec. 1810; Lewis, born Feb. 1813; Sarah, May 1815; Rebecca, Jan. 1817; John, Sept. 27, 1819; Jacob, Feb. 1822; Hezekiah, Aug. 1824; Julia, Feb. 1827; Daniel, July 1829; Richard, 1831; Catharine, 1837.

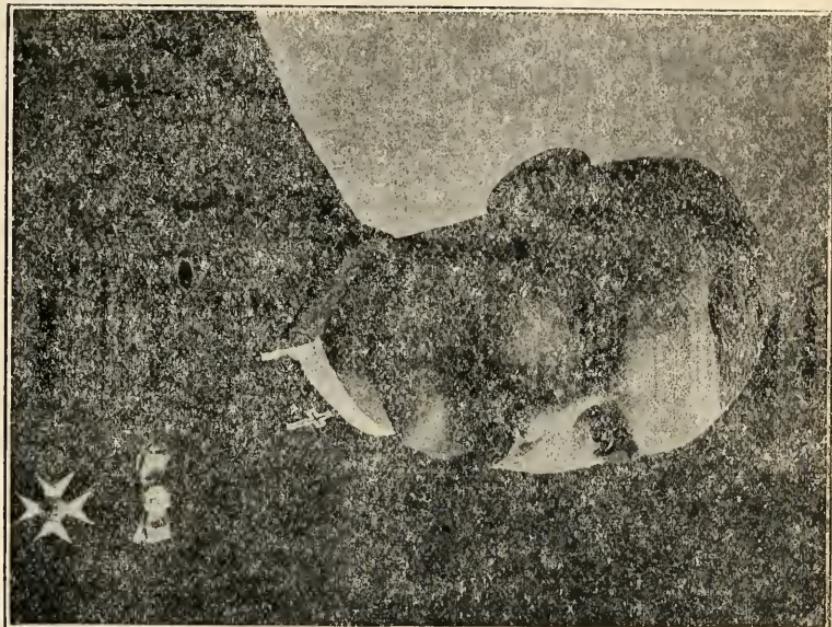
Abraham Argerbright was born Jan. 17, 1907 and Delilah Eaton born Nov. 24, 1807, were married in Rockingham Co., Va., Oct. 5, 1825; moved from Rockingham Co., Va., to West Alendria, O., thence to N. Manchester, Wabash Co., Indiana. Their children were as follows: Mary Ann was born Aug. 15, 1826; Margried, March 22, 1828; Jackson March 13, 1830; Morgan, Feb. 1, 1832; Daniel, April 3, 1835; Elizabeth, Nov. 2, 1837; name not given, July 27, 1839; Solomon, March 12, 1841; Melvinia, April 10, 1843.

John Gift and Mary A. Argerbright were married in West Alexandria, O., 1844. Lived in Gratis and thence moved to Eaton, O. Their children were as follows: Ann Eliza, born Oct. 3, 1845; Mary Jane, Dec. 7, 1847; Clara Ellen, Dec. 13, 1851; John Monroe, April 28, 1856; Francis Marion, Sept. 27, 1858; Charles Calvin, Jan. 31, 1861; William Milton, June 25, 1863.

John Ginter and his wife Rebecca Ginter came from Germany in 1848

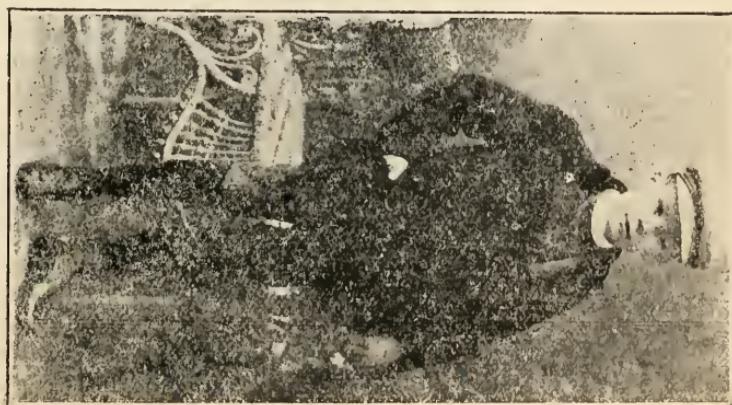
Frank M. Gift, Warsaw, Ind. Fifth Generation.

See History of Nicholas Gift, chap. iv.



Adolph Gift, Mishawaka, Ind. Sixth Generation

See History of Nicholas Gift, chap. iv





and settled in Cincinnati, O. Their children were Caroline, Augustus, Otto, Emma R. and J. Edward.

Frank M. Gift and Emma R. Ginter were married Nov. 11, 1885, at Hannibal, Mo. The following children were born at N. Manchester, Wabash Co., Ind: John Ginter Gift, born Dec. 20, 1887 and died March 16, 1898 and Adolph Gift, born Feb. 6, 1890.

### The Pioneers.

They came to the west when the forest stood

Mighty, and solemn, and grand,  
And built their homes in the shade of the wood,

That covered the western land,  
When the blue wide waters, crystal clear,  
Flowed onward, swift and free,  
As the unchained love of the pioneer  
Gushed forth for liberty.

And the holy stars had watched at night,  
While the still-winged hours passed by;  
While the old years died in their garments white,

Recorded alone on high.  
Long had the secrets lain concealed,  
Which the dim weird forest knew;  
But its hidden wealth was to be revealed,  
And the treasures open to view.

So the woodman came with a high intent

And a strong right arm to do;  
As a conqueror of the dark woods sent,  
To the work of the brave and true,  
Then the deer fled far from its ooden haunt,  
And the fawn turned back to the plain;  
But there rose in the forest a thrilling chant  
From the home he had reared again.

Where the glorious sunlight never fell  
Through the thick-wrought screen of leaves,  
They cleared broad meadows, and seeded the dell,  
And bound in the sun their sheaves,  
They planted the maize in the rich brown soil,  
Which the Indian left in the sod;  
And when the harvest repaid their toil,  
Their thanks went up to God.

On the shadowy hillside grazed the herds,  
In pastures emerald green;  
And the bright air rang with songs of birds,

Where the wigwam once had been.  
The voice of childhood, gleesome, sweet,  
    Floated upon the tide;  
And prints were made of the little feet,  
    Down by the river side.  
But suffering brought the crown of peace,  
    And sorrow, and blood, and tears;  
For the fiery war-god's crimson trace  
    Marked the page of those sad years;  
His banner trailed through glen and field,  
    And his torches flamed afar,  
O'er the daring white who would not yield,  
    And the chieftan trained to war.  
There were drooping sisters captive bound,  
    And brothers burned at the stake;  
And mothers were lying upon the ground  
    In sleep that none can break.  
Wives bent in anguish above their dead;  
    And the maiden on her breast  
Pillowed her lover's fainting head,  
    And the weary soothed to rest.  
Their tombs were made by sighing streams,  
    And in the sunbright glade;  
But never a loft monument gleams  
    Where their cold forms are laid.  
Though many died as heroes fall,  
    They found no burial grave,  
And the flower-gemmed sward was the only pall  
    That enshrouded the pioneer's grave.

By Miss M. Louisa Southwick.

In conclusion the writer will say that by the foregoing history we have traced the original Nicholas Gift to North Carolina and his son Adam, to McConnelsburg, Pa., and his other son John Nicholas, in 1804 to Preble county, Ohio. We have no data showing that Nicholas thereafter left North Carolina, it is therefore conceded he lived and died in the state. It seems, however, there are still branches of the Gifts living in North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. In an old Post Office guide we find a Post Office named "Gift" in Johnson county, North Carolina and one by the same name in Alcorn county, Miss., efforts having been made to find the existence of these offices, but failed. It is supposed they have been discontinued by the establishment of the rural routes. No doubt this Nicholas Gift was the ancestor of the above Gift branches but the writer failed to establish this truthfully, it is only traditional.

This work will be left for the coming generations to do, then this humble little historical volume will be greatly revised, improved and perfected by an abler brain and pen than the writer can yield.

This important and interesting data was secured and arranged by Frank M. Gift, of Warsaw, Indiana. He also furnished the appropriate poem "The Pioneers" by Miss M. Louisa Southwick. He and Capt. J. W. Gift, of Peoria, Ill., and other relatives deserve all due praise and credit for their interest and untiring efforts, in doing so well their part in perpetuating the grand old name of Gift. The author wishes to thank all his contributors for their valuable aid in furnishing data in all the Gift branches.



# HISTORY OF JOHN YOST KERN AND HIS POSTERITY

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## CHAPTER FIVE

John Yost Kern, progenitor of the Kern family in Snyder county, Penna., and of those who emigrated to Ohio and other western states, was born in Freischbach, Germany, in the year 1746. He was married there to Eve Marie Weiss; who was born Nov. 17, 1769, died March 21, 1835. He emigrated to America in the year 1771, and settled in the Middlecreek valley, on territory now composing the township of Franklin, Snyder Co., Pa. On the 24th day of June, 1772, he obtained a warrant on certain lands in pursuance of which a survey was made Sept. 7, 1773, of land adjoining lands of John George Eslinger, Leonard Diehl, Jacob Walter, and others, containing one hundred sixty-five and one-half acres. Here he settled and commenced improvements. On the 31st day of December, 1805, John Yost Kern and Eva Marie, his wife, by deed, conveyed these lands to their son, John Kern. Years afterwards the larger part of this tract was owned by Henry M. Rearick. Further divisions have since been made and the eastern part is now (in 1908) owned by Hopner Mitchel, and the western part is owned by Robert Rearick, son of Henry M. Rearick. At the time John Yost Kern settled here the Indians still roamed through the valley, and when at work in the fields the rifle was an indispensable protection to the settlers. Tradition has it that in those early days in this locality, deer were very plenty and were sometimes seen grazing with the domestic cattle.

In 1790 John Yost Kern bought a farm containing one hundred fifty acres from John Swift, near where Beavertown now stands. This town was laid out in 1810, then called Swiftown. In 1806 John Yost conveyed this farm to his son, Henry, senior. John Yost Kern died in 1815. Tradition has it that both he and his wife, Eve Marie, are buried in the old graveyard at Christ's church, more familiarly known as Hassinger's church, named after several old pioneers by the name of Hassinger, who lived close by for many years in Franklin Township, two miles west of Middleburg. This is one of the oldest burial grounds in this section of the state. Here many of our pioneers are buried and at rest in unmarked graves.

Johan Yost Kern and Eve Marie, his wife, had six sons, Henry, John, (Johan,) Adam, Peter, George Jacob, and Philip; also three daughters, Anna Mary, Loseana and Christina.

Henry Kern, Sr., first son of Johan Yost, was born Nov. 17, 1769, and lived on his farm near Beavertown, which he had bought from his father, John Yost, in 1806. He died March 21, in Seneca county, Ohio, in 1835, at the house of his brother, Peter. (The circumstances of his death will be given hereafter.) He was married to Catherine Lepley, who survived him twenty years. His wife Catherine, was a niece of Michael Lepley, who, with Jacob Gift, and others, was killed by the Indians at Fort Freeland, Penna., in 1779, while serving as soldiers under Washington in the war for freedom. As already related in the genealogical history of John Adam Gift, Henry Kern, Sr., and Catherine, his wife, had one son, Henry, Jr., and seven daughters: Elizabeth, Catherine, Mary, Susan, Margaret, Barbara and Leah. Henry Kern, junior, only son of Henry Kern, senior, and grandson of John Yost, was born in Beaver twp. in 1814. He lived on the old homestead conveyed to him by his father in about 1832. He died in 1894, aged 80 years and is buried in the Beavertown graveyard. He was an honest, kind-hearted and respectable citizen of the county. This old homestead has now, up to 1908, remained in the Kern family for one hundred and sixteen years, and part of it is still in that name. It has since been divided, the northeastern part being owned by his son, Millard H. Kern, while the western part is owned by John H. Hetrick. Henry Kern was married twice. His first wife was Rachael Winters. She died Oct. 10, 1855, and is buried in the cemetery at Beavertown. There were four children surviving her. Mary, married to George O. Smith, resides at Beavertown. Their issue was six children; Lucy, the second daughter, is married to John H. Hetrick, and lives on the western part of the old Kern homestead near Beavertown. They have two sons, Jacob and Ammon, who reside at home. Sarah, the third daughter, was married to Joseph Middleswarth. She died March 20, 1864, and had two children. Susan, the fourth daughter, was married to Jacob W. Dreese, and died at Harrington, Kansas, and is buried there. Their union was blessed with three sons.

Henry Kern, Jr., for his second wife, married Mary Smith, widow of Adam Smith, deceased (nee Specht). Their union was again blessed with three sons: Henry, Millard, Franklin B., and John S. They are all married and reside at Beavertown.

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Henry Kern, Sr., was married to John Swinehart, who died in Beaver township Nov. 21, 1858, aged 49 years. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1887 at the age 83 years. Catherine died single in Beaver township. Mary, married to Enoch Dick, died in

Seneca county, Ohio. Susan married to George Fender also died in Seneca county, Ohio. Margaret, married to George Fall, died in Marshall county, Indiana. The circumstances of her lamentable death were as follows: She was engaged in general house work and while making a bed her son was outside of the house loading a rifle. The gun was accidentally discharged through a small opening of the door which had not been entirely closed; the ball entered her body in the region of the heart, and she died almost instantly. Barbara, married to Henry Etsler, died in Beavertown, May 14, 1885, aged 70 years. Her husband (Etsler) also died in Beavertown, March 27, 1891, aged 73 years. Both are buried in the Beavertown cemetery. Leah married Martin Fogle and both of them died at Beavertown.

John Kern, second son of John Yost in Berks county, Pa., married Catherine Royer, a daughter of Johan George Royer, and granddaughter of Christopher Royer, who came from the Rhein Pfaltz, South Germany, in 1748.

Catherine was a sister of Henry Royer, who died at Rebersburg, Centre county, Pa., aged 95 years.

In 1811 John Kern purchased two farms in Beaver township, two miles east of Beavertown; the one was formerly owned by A. J. Middle-swarth, deceased, but now, in 1906, by George Smith; the other was owned by John S. Smith, deceased, and is now owned by his son, Dr. A. M. Smith. On the latter farm John Kern and his wife died. John Kern and Catherine, his wife had five children, three sons and two daughters: John, Jr., Daniel, George, Elizabeth and Catherine. John Jr., after the death of his parents lived with his uncle, Colonel Henry Royer near Rebersburg, Centre county, Pa., and afterwards learned the tanning trade at Brungard's tannery. He was married to a Miss Bridge. Finally he purchased a small farm near Spring Mills, Centre county, Pa., and settled down for life. He died without issue in 1869. His widow survived him a number of years.

Daniel Kern, second son of John Sr., married Wilhelmina Romig, a daughter of John Romig, who died in 1867, in West Beaver township, now a part of Spring township.

After the death of Daniel's parents, he found a home in the family of George Hassinger, who resided in what is now known as Franklin township. Here he remained until he went to George Swineford in Middleburg to learn the cabinet makers trade.

Daniel bought his first farm west of Troxelville along Jack's mountain which he occupied until after the completion of the Sunbury and Lewis-town railroad. This farm three-fourths of which was well timbered, he sold to a lumber company and immediately bought the western part of the old Beaver farm, located one half mile east of Beavertown and con-

tained two hundred acres. His wife died Jan. 21, 1882, aged 71 years. Twelve years after on Nov. 21, 1894, he also breathed his last at the ripe old age of 83 years. Both are buried in the Beavertown cemetery. They were both honest and highly respected. John Jefferson was their only child and heir. On April 29, 1887, he made his last Will and Testament by which he bequeathed his homestead to his son. John Jefferson united in holy matrimony with Elizabeth Weaver, with whom he had two sons, John D. and Robert F., also four daughters, Ellen H., Susan E., Annie M., and Ada M. John D. married Sallie Houser, Robert F. married Carrie C. Ewing, Ellen H., is married to William H. Hackenberg, Susan E. to Irvin J. Freed, Annie M. to John A. Hackenberg and Ade M. is still single. His wife Elizabeth, died March 2, 1882, at the age of 40 years. She is buried in the cemetery at Beavertown.

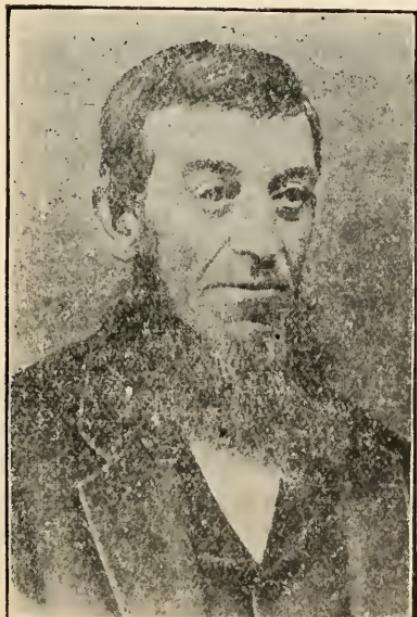
George Kern, youngest son of John, was quite young when his parents died. He then made his home with his sister Elizabeth, who was married to John Gift. They were as father and mother to him. George, after leaving his uncle and aunt's home, went to his brother Daniel, to learn the cabinet makers trade. George married Mary Magdalena Fetterolf, daughter of Peter Fetterolf. She died August 27, 1844, at the age of 19 years and 6 months. Their issue was one son, Robert, who died April 18, 1845, aged 1 year and 3 months. Both mother and son lie buried in the cemetery at Troxelville. His second wife was Rachael Hassinger, a daughter of Daniel Hassinger. The children with this wife were one son and one daughter; Daniel A. and Lydia A. Daniel A. is married to Mary Moyer, daughter of John M. Moyer. They reside in the borough of Middleburg, Pa., Lydia A., who was married to G. M. Motz, died Nov. 12, 1892 at the age of 42 years. Before her death they had one son, George K. Moatz, and two daughters, Jennie R., who died in 1896 at the age of 15 years and 10 months, and Maude E., who is living at home. Mrs. Moatz and her daughter Jennie R., are both buried in the Middleburg Union cemetery.

George Kern died Oct. 4, 1896, at the age of 77 years, and is buried on their family lot in the Middleburg, union cemetery. He died intestate, but had accumulated during his life, a great deal of real estate, and other valuable property. After his demise, the property he had so faithfully accumulated descended to his widow and legal heirs. He was a good, honest and kind-hearted neighbor, loved by all who knew him. His wife, Rachael, at the time of writing, in 1908, still survives him. She is 85 years old, her sight and hearing being defective, but considering her great age, her mental faculties are very good. She loves to talk about occurrences that happened more than sixty years ago. She can remember the names of many who lived in the last generation. She is now the only surviving aunt of the writer.



Isaac Zigler and his wife, Catharine, nee Kern. Both died at Rebersburg.

See History of John Yost Kern, chap. v.



George Kern and his wife, Rachael, nee Hassinger.



Elizabeth, eldest daughter of John Kern, whose grandfather on her mother's side was Johan George Royer, and her great grandfather was Christopher Royer, who came from the Rhein Pfaltz, South Germany, in 1748. After the death of her parents, she lived with her uncle and aunt, Jacob Gift and wife until she was married to John Gift in 1826, after which they resided on their farm near Paxtonville, two and one-half miles west of Middleburg. They had three sons and four daughters:—Aaron K., the writer of these sketches, David, and William D., Amelia, Barbara Ellen, Amanda, and Susana.

(A full history of these children is given in the genealogy of the Gift family, in that part relating to John Gift).

Both Elizabeth and her husband, John Gift, died at the home of their son, William D. Gift, in Franklin township. Her husband died in 1866, aged 68 years; and she died in 1876, at the age of 68 years. Both are buried in the cemetery at Christ's church, now known as Hassinger's church. They were both known as honest and upright people.

Catherine, youngest daughter of John Kern, after the death of her parents, which was while she was very young, lived with her uncle and aunt, Colonel Henry Royer and wife, until she grew to womanhood. Her ancestry is the same as that of her sister, Elizabeth, and their brothers, already noted. She was married to Isaac Zeigler, on June 18, 1843, as his second wife.

### Die Mammi.

Es geht en Scheeheit vun de Seel,  
 En liebliche Gerechtigkeit,  
 As sich veschennert mit de zeit  
 Un is yum wahre Gott en Dheel.  
 Sel is die haupt saeh; in der Dhat  
 Sel is es eenzigsht Ding as bschteht  
 Wann Welt un Himmel mol vegeht,  
 Un sel hot aa die Mammi g'hat.  
 In ihrem kleene finger war  
 Meh Weisheit vun de rechte sart  
 As mancher Witzkop finne ward  
 In all de Bicher gross un rahr.

In remembrance of my mother, Catharine Zigler, (nee Kern). C. C. Zigler.

Isaac Zigler and wife resided at Rebersburg, Pa. The following children were born to this union:—Emeline Jane, John Henry, Thomas Royer, George, Elizabeth, and Charles Calvin. Emeline Jane Zigler was born Apr. 5, 1844, and died Feb. 10, 1892, aged 47 yrs., 10 mos., 5 days. She was married to Ralph M. Musser, who was born Apr. 12, 1844. They have three children: Harry Clymer, John Isaae, and Minnie Maude.

Harry Clymer Musser was born at Rebersburg, Pa., Mar. 13, 1867.

When a young man, he taught school in Centre Co., Pa. Then he went to St. Louis, Mo., where he was employed in the postoffice. Later he returned to Rebersburg, where he married Mary Corman, daughter of Harvey Corman, who was a son of Henry Corman. They have four children: Mabel, Margaret, a baby, and one dead.

John Isaac Musser was born in Dec. 1869, or 1870, at Cedarville, Ill., and died June 7, 1873.

Minnie Maud Musser was born Apr. 10, 1873. She married Curtis Greininger. They reside at Phila., Pa., and have one child.

John Henry Ziegler was born Nov. 27, 1847. He married Malinda Moyer, daughter of John Moyer, in 1872. He graduated from a college of medicine in Baltimore, Md., but before he came home he had been ill with consumption. He opened an office, however, at Rebersburg, and was ready for practice, when he died, July 24, 1874, and was buried there.

Thomas Royer Ziegler was born Dec. 5, 1849. He married Lydia Ann Yearick, Nov. 14, 1872, who was born Nov. 13, 1851. They had three sons: Clarence James, Calvin Henry and Edwin Allen. They reside at Eldred, McKean Co., Pa., where he runs a creamery.

Clarence James Ziegler was born July 25, 1875, and died, date of death unknown to the writer.

Calvin Henry Ziegler was born July 22, 1878, is married, and lives at Watsontown, Pa., where he is chief clerk for the Penna. railroad Co. They have one son.

Edwin Allen Ziegler was born Sept. 20, 1880. He taught school for a time, but is now in the employ of the Government, in the Bureau of Forestry, Department of Agriculture. He married Rebecca Moyer, daughter of Joseph K. Moyer, son of John Moyer. They reside at 1906 third st., N. W., Washington, D. C. They have no children.

George Ziegler, third son of Isaac Ziegler, was born Mar. 19, 1846, and died Apr. 4, 1849.

Elizabeth Ziegler, second daughter of Isaac Ziegler, was born July 31, 1852 and died in infancy.

Charles Calvin Ziegler, youngest son of Isaac and Catherine (Kern) Ziegler, was born June 19, 1856. He was given a common school training at Rebersburg, but he especially benefited by the select and normal schools, conducted at that place by county superintendent, R. M. Magee and Henry Moyer. He ascribes much of his success in life to the thorough teaching of those two eminent educators.

On invitation of his brother, Samuel Benjamin, at West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, he journeyed to that place in April 1870. Here he made himself useful for a time in his brother's "Fayette County Bank" and then filled a clerical position in the recorder's office of that

county. Through the liberality of his brother, Samuel B., he was enabled to take a course of study in the State University of Iowa at Iowa City, where he graduated A. B. Ph. in 1878, and some years subsequently received the honorary degree of Master of Arts.

He returned to Pennsylvania where he engaged in teaching for a number of years in the counties of Centre and Clinton. In September 1882, he entered Harvard College where he devoted himself especially to the study of Geology of which science he was very fond. He graduated June 25, 1884, A. B. "Magna Cum Laude," with honors in Natural History and Honorable Mention in English Composition.

He again went to Iowa and took the post of Professor of Natural Science in Upper Iowa, University at Fayette, Iowa, but the work not being to his liking he migrated to St. Louis, Mo.

Here he engaged in business, becoming connected with the Missouri Pan Electric Telephone Co., and on the dissolution of that company in 1887 became connected with the American Brake Co., of which company he has been the secretary and treasurer since October 1901.

Mr. Ziegler is the author of "Dranss un Deheem," a small volume of poems in the Pennsylvania German dialect, which has been very favorably received and has enjoyed great popularity. The Reformed Church Messenger said of it: "These verses are exceedingly creditable. The author not only possesses genuine poetic feeling, but is a man of culture, who has elaborated his verses with the utmost care."

The New York Nation said: "A most curious and interesting little book which might well have been much larger," and the late Prof. John Fiske called it in one of his histories: "A charming little book." The first edition is entirely exhausted and the author intends to get out a second, much enlarged and with a vocabulary.

April 13, 1888 he married Mary Catherine Conser, of Brush Valley. This union has been blessed by two children, twins, born June 21, 1889, Laura Alpha, who died Nov. 30, 1899 and Calla Alpha, now a musical student in the Beethoven Conservatory at St. Louis.

Mr. Ziegler has been a member of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran church at St. Louis since 1890; was made a Free Mason in 1900; is a member of the Pennsylvania society of St. Louis and of the St. Louis Railway club.

Isaac Ziegler was born in 1800 and died June 21, 1883, aged 83 years.

Catherine Kern Ziegler was born near Middleburg, Pa., Oct. 12, 1814. Her youth was passed on a farm and as was the custom in those early days, she was one of the "hands" to work in the fields whenever occasion required. She was kind-hearted and credulous to a fault. She was a devoted member of the Reformed church at Rebersburg and endeavored to rear her children in the same faith. She died May 21,

1884, aged 69 years, 7 months and 9 days. She and her husband, Isaac, are buried at Rebersburg, Pa.

The death of both John Kern and Catherine (Royer) Kern occurred within a short space of time in 1823. Tradition has it that both are buried in the old Hassinger's church cemetery. Their young children were left fatherless and motherless at an age when they were greatly in need of parental love, guidance and protection. They were mostly reared and taken care of by their uncles and aunts.

### The John Kern Orphans.

In 1823 the affair is sad indeed—

To think of little children, five  
Their parents ne'er to greet.

The summons came to parents dear,  
And called them to their home—

Beyond the skies fore'ver to live  
In glory there to dwell.

But father, mother dear, like all,  
Had breathed their last on earth;

In prime of life they had their call—  
Their call from off this earth,

And children five, they left behind,  
This cold world here to face;

But uncles and aunts they all proved kind,  
And each one had a place.

Alas how very sad it must be

For children thus bereft—  
Of all parental love and care—

Of dear ones, and be left—  
To face this cold and icy world—

This world of ups and downs—  
And live with uncles and with aunts  
Without parental love.

Yet so it was with John and Dan

And George, the boys, all three,  
With Lizzie and with Catherine—

Which makes the five, you see—  
The children of John Sr.,

And Catherine, his wife,  
All grew to man and womanhood

And all led christian lives.

The following is the genealogical history of George Ziegler and family: George and Elizabeth (Wetz) Ziegler lived near Reading, Pa., where they owned some land and also operated a saw-mill. They had a family

of six children of whom Isaac Ziegler was the youngest. He was born near Reading, Pa., in 1800. He was left an orphan at the age of seven years and became separated from his brothers at an early age.

As a young man he was the "hired man" on a farm but finally learned the trade of shoe-maker. He settled at Rebersburg, Pa., in about 1830. By his first wife, Christina Remp, he had six children: Martin Samuel Benjamin, Nancy, Christina, Elijah Remp, and Lovina.

Samuel Benjamin Ziegler took up the profession of law and was admitted to the bar at Bellefonte, Pa. Later he removed to West Union, Iowa, where he became associated with an old attorney as a partner. He also became a real estate broker and was engaged in the banking business. He accumulated considerable property and is now retired. He married after he moved to Iowa. His wife died some years ago, without any children.

Nancy Ziegler married Dr. Stern. They had two children: Calvin R., and one whose name is not known to the author.

Calvin R. Stern was born July 27, 1853, and is married to Rose Musser, daughter of Daniel Musser, a miller at Millheim, Pa. They settled at West Union, Iowa, where he is engaged in the mercantile business. After Nancy's death, Dr. Stern married again and has one daughter to his second wife.

Elijah Remp Ziegler was born March 9, 1837. When a young man he worked in Halfpenny's Woolen Mills at Laurelton, Union county, Pa. He followed school teaching for a while. Then he studied medicine and graduated from Pennsylvania Medical College. He married Marie Schnure of Laurelton, Pa., and settled at West Union, Iowa, where he practiced his profession until his death about 1872. They had two children: Mamie, who died about 1871, and Arthur, born Sept. 11, 1864, at Laurelton, Pa. Arthur located in Philadelphia, Pa., and was at one time employed by The Penn Mutual Life Ins. Co.

Lousia Ziegler married a Mr. Caldwell, and lives at Landisburg, Perry Co., Pa.

Johan Adam Kern, third son of John Yost, the original ancestor in this country, owned and occupied a farm in what is now Adams township. The farm has since been divided. Harrison Moyer owns the eastern part, and the western part, on which a sawmill is located, is now owned by Daniel A. Kern, a son of George Kern, deceased, who was the former owner.

Johan Adam died at an advanced age and is buried in the old cemetery near Troxelville. He had three sons and one daughter, namely: Jacob, John S., Daniel and Susan. Jacob died on his farm two miles east of Beavertown, May 22, 1858, aged 54 years. Sarah, his wife, (nee Weirick) died Aug. 27, 1870, at the age of 63 years. They are buried in the ceme-

tery at Beavertown. Their children were as follows: Robert W. Kern died at Ashland, Schuylkill county, Pa., in about 1885. Charles died while serving in the Union Army in about 1862, and is buried at Grafton, West Virginia. Mary married Thomas J. Thomas, and died at Bellevue, Ohio, in about 1902. Matilda died single Sept. 10, 1863, at the age of 29 years, and is buried at Beavertown, Pa. Salinda, widow of Alfred Wolf, deceased, is living at Minneapolis, Kansas.

Amelia K., widow of William Gise, deceased, lives at Chicago, Ill. S. Ellen, intermarried with Alfred Specht, Esq., resides at Beavertown. Their matrimony was blessed with two sons; Charles F. and Thomas J. Charles F. united in matrimony with Miss Clara Hartman. They have one daughter, Laura. They reside at Lewistown where he is employed as a conductor on the trolley road.

Thomas J. married to Miss Ella Custer, resides in Franklin where he is employed by the P. R. R. Co. as clerk and assistant agent. His union with Miss Custer has been blessed with one son, namely Ben Custer Specht.

John S. Kern, second son of John Adam, born September 30, 1802 and died at Rennsalaer, Jasper county, Indiana, July 29, 1865. After two years the remains were removed to Logansport, Indiana. In 1863 he sold his farm and mill property at Paxtonville, Snyder county, Pa., and migrated to Mich. and from there to Indiana.

Catherine E., nee Tittle, wife of John S. Kern, was born May 9, 1814 and died May 10, 1900 and is buried at Logansport. They were blessed with the following issue:

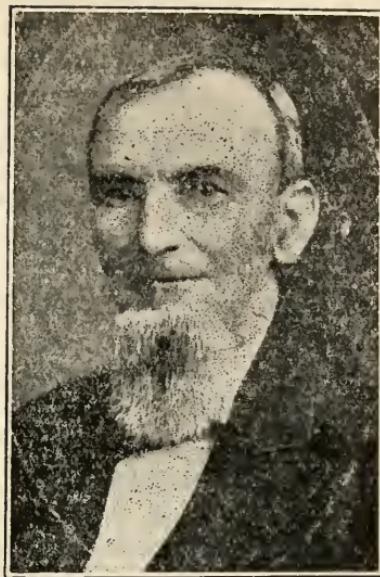
Sabina Kern was born Feb. 19, 1833, and died Nov. 19, 1867 and is buried at Rennsalaer, Ind. She married Beuben Middleswarth and has a son, William D., living in Dubuque, Iowa and his address is No. 3 Grave Terrace. Reuben Middleswarth died at Rennington, Ind., in the year 1872, aged 38 years. Their children were William D., Ammon, dec'd., Charles, Maggie, Allen and Lizzie.

Jane Kern was born June 16, 1835. Do not know the date of her death. Married Alexander Robinson and his sons address is F. K. Robinson, Champaign, Ill. The writer could not obtain any more data concerning this family.

Stephen T. Kern was born December 5, 1850. Died a single man, April 18, 1876. Buried at Logansport, Indiana.

Wiland Kern was born October 16, 1853. Died July 7, 1857 and was buried on the old homestead farm at Beaver Furnace, now Paxtonville, Snyder county, Pa.

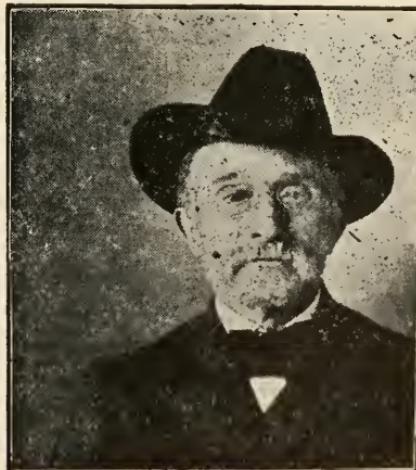
Rolson Kern was born April 6, 1857 and is buried beside Wiland on the same homestead farm and J. S. Kern, the father, made tombstones for these two children before we left for the west.



John Gift, Eaton, Ohio. Fourth Generation.

See Nicholas Gift History, chap. IV.

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Simon P. Kern, Residing at Hanna, Ind.

See History of John Yost Kern, chap. v.



Lillie C. Kern was born December 19, 1858 and died February 13, 1883. She was married to Atwater Barnett, who still survives her.

William T. Kern was born February 15, 1858 and died November 13, 1876. Buried at Logansport, Indiana. Not married. William was engaged in the mercantile business and was very successful.

Ammon S. Kern was born October 13, 1840. Died and was buried at South Bend, Indiana, September 20, 1897. Was married and his wife is also dead. No children. For many years Ammon was a successful merchant at South Bend, Indiana.

Adam T. Kern was born December 1, 1845. Married and now lives at Logansport, Ind., where he is a successful business man.

Eliza Kern was born April 20, 1843, and married Elmore McCray, who died about twenty-eight years ago. She is still a widow and has two sons only, all living in Kentland, Indiana.

Clem J. Kern was born May 25, 1848. Married. No children, and lives in Valparaiso, Ind. Clem J. for years has been a successful and well-to-do merchant at Valparaiso, Ind., and in other localities. The foregoing data was furnished the writer by W. D. Middleswarth and C. J. Kern, parties above named.

A history of Daniel S. Kern 3d. son of John Adam, and wife, Sarah Jane Parker Kern and their family. In 1853 he sold his valuable farm in Penn'a, and moved to Bellevue, Ohio, from thence he moved to Indiana. He was born in Beaver Township, Union (now Snyder) county, Pa., Jan. 1, 1809, and died May 17, 1883, at Hanna, Indiana, LaPorte County, and was buried in Morgan Cemetery located in Cass Township, LaPorte County, Ind. Sarah Jane Parker was born in Beaver township, Union (now Snyder) county, Pa., August 31, 1813, and died at Hanna, Ind., LaPorte County, on May 19, 1905, and was buried in Morgan Cemetery in Cass Township, LaPorte County, Ind. They were united in marriage in Franklin Township, Union County, Pa., in the year 1829. To this union were born the following children, their births being in the order named: Henrietta, born Aug. 18, 1831, in Franklin township, Union, now Snyder Co., Pa., was married to Jacob Eckhart at the same place. Eckhart died in Missouri, Feb. 13, 1860, her present home being Centerville, Mich., and she is still a widow. Simon P. Kern was born May 29, 1833, in the same township, county and State, and was married March 30, 1853, to Maria Gemberling in Penns township, Union (now Snyder) county, Pa. This wife died Feb. 17, 1904, and was buried in Hanna, Ind., Cemetery, LaPorte Co. He was married a second time to Mary C. Lee on Sept. 11, 1906, and resides at present in Hanna, Ind., LaPorte County. Simon P. Kern with his first wife had two sons and one daughter. The elder son resides at Battlecreek, Mich., the younger lives at Hanna, Ind., near his father. The daughter resides at Long-

branch, Cal. Roswell Kern, born Feb. 14, 1836, in same township, county and state, married in Sandusky Co., O., to Elizabeth Fees, who died in 1888, in Cass township, LaPorte Co., Ind., and was buried in Hanna, Ind., Cemetery, LaPorte Co. He resides at present in Cass twp., LaPorte Co., Ind. Sarah Kern, born June 20, 1838, in same township, county and state, was married to Joseph Lehr in Michigan, St. Joseph Co. Mr. Lehr died in August, 1906, at Centerville, Mich., and is buried at Three Rivers, Michr, where his widow resides at present. Erwin P. Kern, born Nov. 23, 1840, in the same township, county and state, was married to Elizabeth Moyer in 1862, at White Pigeon, Mich., and resides at present in Noble twp., LaPorte Co., Ind. Postoffice Union Mills, Ind.

Tammer Kern, Born Oct. 23, 1843, in same township, County and state, married James Johnston in 1863. He is now dead and buried at Three Rivers, Mich. She is still a widow and lives at Three Rivers, Mich,

Calvin P. Kern, born April 26, 1846, in same township, county and state, and died July 28, 1892, in Furnace Co., Neb., and is buried in Beaver City, Nebraska. He was married in 1866, to Laura Davis at Hanna, Ind. She resides at present with her children in Wyoming.

Sowara Kern, born Jan. 21, 1848, in same township, county and state, was married to Almira Smith in Cass township, LaPorte Co., Ind., in 1875, and resides at present in Hanna, Ind., LaPorte Co.

Agness Kern, born Feb. 28, 1853, in Sandusky County, Ohio, and was married to Henry Duke at Three Rivers, Mieh., in 1873. They reside at present at Three Rivers, Mich.

The foregoing data were furnished the writer by Simon P. Kern, a son of Daniel S. Kern.

Susan, only daughter of Johan Adam Kern, was married to William Frederick at her home in Beavertown, Snyder county, where she died, childless, at the age of 77 years. Her remains lie at rest in the burial grounds at that place. She was an honest and kind lady, beloved by all the community in which she lived.

Peter Kern, fourth son Johan Yost, owned a farm in what is now known as Adams Township. He was a wagon maker by trade and followed that business in Pennsylvania, and made the wood work of wagons, and wooden plows. These plows were entirely made of wood including the mould board, excepting the share and point, called the cutter, which were made of iron. These plows were very eumbersome and unwieldy, but they were the only plows known nearly or about a century ago. When the writer was a boy about 65 years ago, he saw one of these wooden plows, which was kept as a curiosity and as a relie in his father's barn.

Wooden harrows were also made and used during those primitive times, when iron and steel were scarce, and high in price. They were made of

white oak sapling of the required size, hewed square and framed at regular distances apart. One and one-half to two inch holes were bored through the beams for the teeth, which were made of hard dry hickory wood, and driven into these holes for the teeth. These teeth extended about eight inches on the under side of the harrow, and did excellent work. Alas! those times have gone by and now all our farming implements are made combine and trusts and the farmer is compelled to pay the high prices which they ask, or do without such conveniences.

Peter Kern was born in Penn'a, Feb. 22, 1776, and died in Thompson township, Seneca county, Ohio, June 12, 1855. He was married to Miss Christina Lepley, said to have been a sister of Michael Lepley, who was killed by the Indians with Jacob Gift and others, at Fort Freeland, Pa., in 1779. (See history of the Gift family). Christina was born in New Jersey, Sept. 4, 1775, and died March 3, 1857. She was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church. The issue of this union was as follows:

Anthony Kern was born Feb. 14, 1813, and died Feb. 6, 1886. Sophia, wife of Anthony, was born Feb. 5, 1816, and died June 17, 1872. Levi Kern was born Sept. 16, 1842, and died Feb. 28, 1904. Michael Kern was born April 7, 1805, and died June 13, 1847. Peter Kern, Jr., was born March 3, 1807, and died Nov. 9, 1857.

Mary, a daughter of Peter Kern, was married to Samuel Romig, who died April 3, 1884, aged 81 years, 7 months and 9 days. Mary, his wife, died Jan. 23, 1882, aged 75 years, 1 month and 27 days. Both died at their home, two miles west from Beaver Springs, Pa., and are buried in the old cemetery at that place. The issue of this union was as follows:

Ephraim was married to Miss S. Ada Schroyer. He died Jan. 2, 1907, aged 67 years, 3 months and 28 days.

Pharus was married to Miss Alvilda Brechbill. He died in April, 1905. Both brothers are buried in the new cemetery at Beaver Springs, where their residence was.

Tilman married Miss Kate Howell. He is engaged in farming near Milroy, Pa.

Mena was married, and died Feb. 21, 1883, aged 52 years, 1 month and 19 days. She is buried in the old cemetery at Beaver Springs.

Delilah was married to Samuel Shank. He died and his widow resides at Siglerville, Mifflin Co., Pa.

Judda was married to Samuel Whitesides, who died. She now resides at Three Rivers, Mich.

Rachel was married to Charles Kempher, who died, and his widow resides at Edwards, Minn.

Samuel Romig was first married to a daughter of Abraham Keller. She died, and afterwards he married Mary Kern, mother of the above named sons and daughters.

The foregoing data were furnished the writer by Clymer Romig of Beaver Springs, Pa., a son of Ephraim, and a grand son of Samuel Romig.

George Jacob Kern, fifth son of Johan Yost, owned and occupied a farm now in West Beaver township, one mile east of where McClure is located. This farm has since been divided; the eastern part is owned by Isaac Middleswarth and the western part by Ner B. Middleswarth, Ex-Sheriff of Snyder Co. It is asserted that Peter and Jacob were both sober, honest and industrious farmers. Peter and Jacob sold their farms in 1833, and by wagons emigrated to Seneca and Huron counties, Ohio, and settled in the vicinity of where the present city of Bellevue is located. Here in their new homes, they raised their families; they grew up with the country and accumulated a large amount of real estate. Nearly all of their descendants reside in Sandusky and Huron counties, and in the city of Bellevue. In 1883, when they arrived at their chosen place for their new homes, they entered government lands which then cost the trifling sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre and the necessary office expenses. There is not a better wheat country to be found in that locality. Improved farm land is worth now (1906) from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars an acre.

George Jacob (Yocob) Kern was born April 22, 1784, in Penus, now West Beaver township, Northumberland county, Pa. On Nov. 3, 1807, he was married to Elizabeth Shock, a daughter of George and Esther Sharp Shock. Elizabeth was born Oct. 17, 1787, and died Oct. 22, 1856, her husband having died June 21, 1853, in Thompson township, Seneca county, Ohio. This union was blessed with the following children:

Yost, born, March 7, 1811, and died March 16, 1888.

George, born June 1, 1821, and died June 29, 1895.

Edward, born Sept. 7, 1825, and died Aug. 21, 1901. Edward had three sons and three daughters. All are married and still (1907) living. Joseph is the eldest son.

Isaac was born Jan. 2, 1828, and died Aug. 14, 1895. He was married twice, had three daughters by his first wife and eight sons by his second. Mason H. is the fifth son, residing in his fine home at Bellevue, Ohio. He has two daughters and one son.

Benneville was born May 24, 1901.

Sarah united in marriage with John Romig.

Sophia, born July 4, 1813, died single May 11, 1853.

Hannah was married to George Heter. She was born Nov. 16, 1815 and died June 11, 1893.

Mary was born August 14, 1818 and died March 28, 1866.

Rachael was born July 1, 1823. She was united in marriage with Jacob Zeiber and is still living. (1906.)

The above data was furnished the writer by Mason H. Kern, a descendant of George Jacob.

Philip Kern, sixth son of Johan Yost had two sons, Reuben and Michael and three daughters, Rebecca, Susan and Mary. He died in Beaver township. The writer was unable to ascertain the name of his wife or the time of his death.

Johan Yost Kern had three daughters as already stated. Anna Mary was married to John Walter; Loseana married Jacob Bubb and Christina married Joseph Walter.

Joseph Walter and Christina his wife, resided in the borough of Selinsgrove at which place they died and are buried. Some of their descendants still reside in Selinsgrove.

Incidents connected with the early history of the Kerns is as follows:

A few years after the death of Johan Yost Kern, one of his sisters, Elizabeth, widow of a Mr. Miller, was still living at Freischbach, Germany. She wrote to her nephews to send one of their number to Germany to accompany her to the United States, that she in the meantime would make her last will and testament and bequeath all of her estate, which was considerable, to the sons and daughters of her brother, Johan Yost. She stated that as her relations in the old country were very distant and few in number; she wished to live the remainder of her life among her kindred in the United States. Henry, the oldest son of Johan Yost, and father of Henry Kern, deceased, at Beavertown. It was written by one Thomas Youngman in high German and was translated from the German by the writer. It is very queer in its composition. Following is a copy as translated:

"Pennsylvania, Union county, Beaver township, April the 26, 1821.

Know all men by these presents, as well as the Hon. authorities, concerning a power of attorney to collect a legacy we pray the esteemed superiors in office will have the goodness to give their kind attention. There is a legacy to be received at Rein-Kreis, Kingdon of Bavaria. Inquire for the name of the minister, for the Curator (Trustee) Culleman, or for Jacob Peter Kern at Friechbach, etc. etc., to whom we make ourselves known as the true and lawful heirs, sons and daughters of the deceased Johan Yost Kern, who died six years ago from June the 25, last past, who resided at that time in Beaver township, Union county, in the state of Pennsylvania, being one of the United States of North America. Our names are as follows to wit:

Anna Mary Kern married to John Walter; Henry Kern being the one named in this power of attorney, Johan Adam Kern: Loseana Kern, married to Jacob Bubb; Peter Kern; Christiana Kern, married to Joseph Walter; Philip Kern; John Kern and Jacob Kern.

We the undersigned have resolved and hereby do resolve and hand over this power of attorney to Henry Kern as our lawful attorney, who has undertaken to journey from here to Europe and to collect and re-

ceive for us and in our stead our full legacy which our Aunt Elizabeth Miller, (formerly) Elizabeth Kern, has bequeathed to us. She residing at Fieschbach in the county (Canton) of Germansheim, Duchy of Baden and upon the same condition we think it for good to authorize and hereby so authorize the said Henry Kern if necessary to empower anyone else he may think proper to do and perform all above matters and things the same as we could or would do were we personally present ourselves,

"In witness whereof and for the further confirmation of the foregoing power of attorney, we, the undersigned have hereunto set our hands and seals on the day and year aforesaid.

Anna Mary Walter, John Walter, Johan Adam Kern, Jacob Bubb, Peter Kern, Christina Kern, Joseph Walter, Philip Kern, John Kern, Jacob Kern. [Seal]

Witnesses present:

Abraham Waros,      {  
Thomas Youngman. }

In due time, thereafter, Henry Kern started on his voyage to the father-land. In the fall of 1821 he arrived in Germany. For some cause or other his aunt Elizabeth Miller, was not ready to go and he returned without her. In 1823 he made his second trip, and by this time his aunt had converted all her estate into money and was ready to go. Her money was exchanged for bibles, testaments and clocks by her nephew Henry, because at that early day there were no such facilities as now to exchange foreign money at our seaports or elsewhere. The clocks were manufactured at Black Forest (Schwarzwald), Switzerland. At the appointed time, Henry went to get his clocks. He was told that they were not finished; so he had to wait, but was invited to board with the proprietor, who wined and dined him every meal. A Shoppen (a pint) of wine was set before him at every meal. Henry soon complained saying, "that he was too poor to pay for such luxuries." He was told, "This costs you nothing, we board all of our customers free, who on our account are obliged to wait for their finished ware." After Henry returned to the United States with his aunt, Elizabeth, these foreign articles were sold, and thus was realized quite an amount of wealth for that day. Many of these clocks are yet in good running order, and at this day have become heirlooms, highly prized.

On her arrival, aunt Elizabeth first lived with her nephew, John, on the farm now owned by Dr. A. M. Smith. Both John Kern and Catherine, his wife, soon after the arrival of their aunt, in 1823, died within a short time of each other. She then made her home with Johan Adam, her other nephew, where she died at an advanced age. It is related by our old people, that she was buried in the old Musser's valley cemetery

at Troxelville, Snyder county, Pa. This old German lady had many peculiarities. Where she came from, nothing was wasted. When her nephew, John, was clearing the forests and preparing the soil for cultivation, all the timber was rolled on heaps and burned because it was valueless in those days. Destroying the timber in this way was hard for aunt Elizabeth to see, and she would often exclaim, "It is a sin to so burn this nice wood" or in her native tongue, "Es ist eine sunde das schone holz so zu verbrennen." Against the protest of John, she would go out on the clearing, gather her apron full of small twigs and carry them home for fuel. She would go out and cut grass in the fence corners with her german sickel and carry it to the calves in the meadow pasture. She would tell her nephew, "O Johan, my beloved nephew, you must not permit so much to go to waste," or in her own language, "O Johan, mein lieber enkel, sie mussen doch nicht so foiel ferschwenden lassen."

In the year 1834, about a year after, Peter and Jacob Kern emigrated to Ohio. Their brother Henry, who had traveled twice to Germany, made his first trip to Seneca and Huron counties, Ohio, to see his brothers, Peter and Jacob, and the wild west, as the Ohio country was then known. By his request, his family made him a strong knapsack (schnapp-sock). This was made of home grown flax, home spun, and home woven linen cloth. (In those early days each family had its own spinning wheels and loom.) This was packed full of extra clothing, and some eatables. This he strapped on his back, and started to walk to Ohio, a distance of 450 miles, and arrived safe at his destination, where he was a welcome guest. While there, he entered some government land at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, and entrance fees. He returned in the same manner as he had come.

Before he started on his second and last trip, he said to his family, "I believe I will once more walk to Ohio to see the brothers and our land." In his Pennsylvania german he said, "Eich glaub eich will noach amohl nous noch der Hio lauffa, die bruder und unser lond zu sehna."

Alas! A few weeks after his arrival, in 1835, he was taken sick and died at the home of his brother, Peter, in Seneca county, Ohio. During his sickness, he was carefully and kindly nursed by his brothers and other friends, and received a christian burial, even away from his nearest kindred—his beloved wife and children. He was an honest and courageous Pennsylvania German, beloved by all who knew him. Among the papers and other valuable reliques in the possession of the heirs of Henry Kern, Jr., dec'd, at Beavertown, is a wallet or money bag, which his father Henry Sr., had carried twice to Germany and back, and used in his trips to the State of Ohio. This is now indeed an heir-loom.

At this point we will give a brief sketch of Jacob (Yocob) Walter. Two of his sons, Joseph and John, married two sisters, daughters of John

Yost Kern. Both raised large families. Jacob (Yocob) Walter the original pioneer of all the Walter branches in Pennsylvania, and was born in the Kingdom of Wittenburg, Germany, in January 15, 1729. He was married to Miss Maria Kauffman, July 24, 1757. He landed at Philadelphia after a voyage of two months. He moved to Lancaster, Pa. He was a tailor by trade. He later moved to Penn (now Franklin) township, Northumberland (now Snyder) county. Here he bought a tract of land, afterwards owned by Isaac Swarm, the bulk of which is now (1908) owned by Millard Schambach. This land is located about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Middleburg. The first roof under which they lived was a canvass tent erected under a large white oak tree. He soon cleared some fields and erected a log house. His trusty gun brought down the fleet-footed deer and other wild game for the family store. At this time the Indians were still inhabiting this valley. Here he erected the first linseed oil mill in this part of the State. He was a member of the building committee who erected the first Lutheran and Reformed union church, a log building, known as Hassinger's church, in 1785.

Jacob Walter had a large family: David married Susan Ehrhart, John married Losena Kern, Joseph married Christina Kern, they were sisters, and daughters of John Yost Kern, Philip married a Miss Bowersox, Henry married a Miss Mertz, Jeremiah married Pearl Price, Christian married a Miss Swartz, Jacob Jr., married a Miss Lawver, Michael married a Miss Varick (Weirick), Elizabeth was married to Daniel Hassinger, Mary married a Mr. Stroub, Conrad of whose marriage we have no record.

Joseph, third son of Jacob Walter, raised quite a family, one of their sons was Deitrick Walter, a full cousin of the writer's mother. He was born Dec. 17, 1807, and died April 8, 1848.

He was married to Miss Rebecca Weller. She died Sept. 21, 1894. They resided on a farm in Franklin township, now owned by their son, John W. Walter. Their children were Aaron Walter, dec'd, lived near Bellevue, Ohio; Joseph dec'd; John W. and Elizabeth dec'd.

Joseph Walter, son of Deitrick, was born June 4, 1835 and died Feb. 4, 1897. He is buried in the Middleburg cemetery. He was married to Miss Susan Hassinger, a daughter of Conrad Hassinger; she still survives him. They lived on their farm one half mile south-west of Middleburg. They had the following children: Alice, Laura dec'd, Keamer, Maggie, Frank and Reno. Alice is married to Isaiah Walter, a son of Ephriam and grandson of Deitrick, who was a son of David. They have two sons, Rev. Lloyd W. Walter, who is married to Anna May Guss, of Mifflin, Pa., who is a great-granddaughter of Rev. Conrad Walter, and Renel resides at home.

Keamer, son of Joseph Walter married Miss Elizabeth Bubb, a daughter of Reuben Bubb. They have one son, Ray. They reside at Selinsgrove, Pa.

Maggie married Rev. J. M. Rearick. They have the following children: Jodie, Susan, Alice, Walter, Paul and Luther. They reside in Clinton county, Pa.

Frank Walter is married to Miss Kate Garman, residing in Middleburg, Pa. Their children are Hazel, Laura, Marie, Garman, Chester and Ernest.

Reno Walter is married to Miss Burnice Garman. Their children are Joseph and Dalem. They reside in Cleveland, Ohio.

John W. Walter was born Oct. 7, 1833 and died and was buried Aug. 21, 1908. He was married to Miss Harriet, daughter of Henry Hassinger. They resided on their farm in Franklin township, Snyder county, Pa. The following children were born to them: Mina A., single, E. D. H. Walter married to Irene Beaver, daughter of W. H. Beaver, Louisa A., single. Mr. Walter was a county commissioner up to the time of his death.

Amanda daughter of Deitrick Walter is married to John A. Stahlnecker. They reside in Middleburg, Pa. Their children are George E., who married Miss Maggie Six, Harvey D. married to Miss Dilla O'Niel, Annie, married to William Snyder, Lester married to Gertrude Manbeck, all residing in Cleveland, Ohio and doing well.

Elizabeth, a daughter of Joseph Walter and sister of Deitrick, was married to Jacob Bolender. They lived on their farm east of Middleburg, Pa. Their children are Charles A., ex-county treasurer, who resides on the old homestead. He is married to Miss Kate Bickel. Their children are George D. dec'd, Harry and John. Eve Bolender married J. W. Renninger. He died April 10, 1906; the widow still survives him. Their children are Louisa married to J. B. Enterline, C. Lincoln, dec'd, Elizabeth married to J. H. Moyer, Carrie married to George H. Steininger, Mollie A., married W. L. Wehr, Verdie, dec'd, Annie M., married to L. C. Bachman and John B., dec'd.

Emma Bolender was married to Robert Arbogast. She died soon after her marriage.

Catherine Bolender married Peter S. Riegel, of Freeburg, Pa.

Jacob Bolender died Nov. 24, 1872, aged 65 years, 3 months and 1 day. His wife Elizabeth, died Feb. 19, 1884, aged 71 years and 3 days.

#### Sketch of Rev. John Conrad Walter.

Rev. John Conrad Walter became related through marriage to the numerous Walter families in Snyder county.

He was born in Germany Nov. 30, 1775 and came to America when three years of age. His father settled in Tulpahocken, Pa.

When Rev. Walter was a young man he came to Snyder county, living near Freeburg. He served numerous churches in this county. (For full particulars see history of Christ's or Hassinger's church.)

Rev. Walter was married to Miss Catherine Ulsh, of Pfontz's Valley on Oct. 27, 1807. They had five children of whom two died quiet young. Elizabeth was born Oct. 17, 1810. She was married to George Rine; they lived near Schnee's church. They had eleven children. Maria married Andrew Bowersox; John was married to Matilda Arbogast; Elizabeth married Daniel Roush; Carolina married J. J. Yerger; Henry died young; Jacob married Miss Katie Ann Apple; Benjamin died; Sarah Ann married Samuel Boyer; Catherine married Henry Boyer; Barbara married John Arbogast and Matilda died young.

Anna, daughter of Rev. Conrad Walter, was married to David Moyer, a tanner near Freeburg, Pa. They had eight children of whom two are living. Mary Ann married William Guss. He was a son of Abraham Guss, who was married to Miss Mary Magdaline Aughey. William Guss was born March 23, 1832. On May 5, 1859 he married Miss Mary R. Shuman for his first wife, who died. They resided in Mifflin, Juniata county, Pa. Their issue was one son, E. Milton Guss, who married Miss Anna E. Partner. They have three children: Lyman A., Leslie B., who married Martha W. Suloff and Carrie E. On Dec. 8, 1864 William Guss married his second wife, Miss Mary Ann Moyer, daughter of David Moyer and granddaughter of Rev. John Conrad Walter.

This union was blessed with the following children: Carrie E., who died April 10, 1899; Rev. Jerome M. Guss, who married Miss Evangeline Dimm, daughter of Rev. Dr. Dimm, of Selinsgrove, Pa. They reside at Altona, Pa., and have one son, Walter Dimm. Aula S. Guss, daughter of William Guss, resides at Mifflin, Pa.

Rev. William Ira Guss married Miss Anna C. Croninger, residing at Duquesne, Pa. They have one daughter, Anna Ruth.

David M. Guss. Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Anna May married Rev. Lloyd W. Walter, of Danville, Pa., and Rev. Uriah A. Guss, of Mifflin, Pa.

Miss Carolina Moyer, daughter of David Moyer, was married to W. C. Adams. Their children were Itasca; Carrie, who married Robert Farquer; Beatrice married to T. C. Ross; Emma; William; Walter; Edith, who married Millard Patton; Charles dec'd and Meta still living.

George Conrad Moyer, son of David Moyer, married Miss Jane Kreider. She died and he afterwards married a Miss Bowess, living in Canton, O.

Clara Moyer, daughter of David Moyer, was married to William Hummel, residing north east of Middleburg with her sons Benjamin and Aaron.

Rev. Walter's widow, (nee Catherine Ulsh) afterwards married John Rein, whose first wife was Elizabeth Motz; she died April 23, 1819 and her funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Walter. Text: Luke 23:

27-31. This second wife of John Rein, died September 10, 1835, aged 44 years, 3 months and 20 days. Her funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Peter Swartz. She is buried in the Rein family grave yard.

Rev. Walter's widow with her second husband, John Rein, was the mother of eight children: Barbara married Samuel Young, living at Albion, Noble county, Ind.; Sarah married Samuel Motz, living at Canton, Ohio; John Jacob, married to a Miss Herrold, then to a Miss Lawver, and now his third wife is a Sassaman and they live at Cocolamus, Juniata county, Pa.

Benjamin is married to Susan Hummel residing near Lewisburg, Pa. Christianna married William Boyer, of Gratz, Dauphin county, Pa. Carolina married Philip Roush. They live in Elkhart county, Ind. One son and one daughter died quite young.

The Genealogical history of the Kern family whose ancestor was Johan Yost Kern, is now completed. It required a great deal of time, labor and expense to procure the proper data. The writer is under obligation to many of the descendants, for their kind assistance rendered by correspondence and otherwise. If anything of importance has been omitted that should have been inserted, it is to be regretted, but the historian could hardly be held responsible, for it was his aim to get all the information procurable for the interest of the relatives.

During a period of years other Kerns immigrated to America, among them are the following as taken from Prof. J. Daniel Rupp's collection of 30,000 Immigrants to Pennsylvania from Germany, Switzerland and other countries: Abraham Kern, Sept. 21, 1731, George Kern, Sept. 26, 1737, Johan Simon Kern, Oct. 7, 1743, Henrick Kern, Oct. 13, 1747, Mathew Kern, Sept. 25, 1751, and George Adam Kern, Oct. 23, 1752. More could be named if space permitted. The writer was not able to trace any descendants of the foregoing named Kerns, whether of any known relationship or not, to our ancestor Johan Yost Kern, who was born at Freischbach, Germany, in 1746. Yet there is reason to believe, that the various Kern branches were originally related in the fatherland, but were separated and drifted apart, but these facts can not be learned at this late day, so we must leave them lie buried in oblivion.

Rev. Robert M. Kern, a German Reformed minister, who is located at Allentown, Pa., has charge of St. Andrew Reformed congregation, says his father's name was James, his grandfather was also named James, who came over from Germany, but he can not fix the date.

The following is gleaned from "The Pennsylvania German," a worthy publication by H. A. Schuler, editor, Allentown, Pa.: Jacob Kern, one of the ancestors of the Kern family in Lehigh and other eastern counties in Penna., taught one of the first English schools in connection with German, at Egypt in White Hall township. The school was opened Jan. 3, 1809. His salary was \$14.00 per month.

### Valuable Relics.—Ancient Powder-Horn, Spur and Shotgun.

The following is copied from "The Pennsylvania German:" Among the relics owned by Daniel N. Kern, of Allentown, Pa., are a powder-horn and a spur that were brought from Germany by Frederick Wilhelm Kern, in 1739. The powder-horn was made by a relative also named Kern, in 1664, in Germany. It was used to put the priming powder on the pan of flint-lock guns. An old shotgun brought from Germany by the Kern family, now belongs to Henry S. Kern, of Shimerville, Lehigh County. The spur above mentioned is said to have been used by a cavalry soldier in the Revolution, who had borrowed it from D. N. Kern's grandfather.

The following I take in part from the "Commoner," a weekly paper published by the Hon. W. J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb., which shows that people named Kern are still residing in Germany, the fatherland, and that at least some of them are prominent among its citizens. A cablegram from Berlin says: "Maximilian Harden, editor of "Die Zukunft," was acquitted to-day in the suit brought against him by General Count Kuno Von Moltke, formerly Military Governor of Berlin, for defamation of character. In addition, General Moltke was condemned to bear the costs of trial. The trial began October 23, 1907. This case attracted the greatest interest throughout Germany. This case was tried before Judge Kern, the presiding judge, (Richter)."

There is also located in Virginia a branch of the Kern family, said to be directly connected with the Pennsylvania family of that name. From this Virginia branch is descended John W. Kern, of Indianapolis, Ind., who is the present nominee of the Democratic party for office of Vice President of the United States.

# HISTORY OF CHRISTOPHER ROYER AND HIS POSTERITY

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## CHAPTER SIX

The original Christopher Royer, whose genealogical history follows, was born at Rhine Pfaltz, South Germany, where he was also married. Their issue was one daughter. In 1748, the parents, with their only child, embarked for America. During the first part of their voyage, his wife became greatly distressed and troubled. She said, "In America all is wild, and there are no churches nor preachers," but the captain of the ship assured her that there was no need of troubling herself, that there were churches everywhere in America, which afterwards proved to be true, for the first sermon her husband heard was under a shady white oak tree, where the city of Lancaster now stands, which was then a small village. After receiving this assurance, she became more calm, apparently, but there must have been deep-seated anxiety in her mind, for some time later she became sick and died. She was buried in a watery grave, "the ocean," leaving her infant daughter in the care of her bereaved husband. This made the remainder of the journey very sad and lonesome. In due time, they landed at Philadelphia, Pa. He came to the locality, where the city of Lancaster now stands. His little daughter grew to womanhood among friends and at Pine Grove, Schuylkill Co., Pa., she married Jacob Gungle. While living at Lancaster, he married his second wife, Miss Catharine Royer, of American birth and of the same name, but so far as known there was no relationship between them. Here his oldest son, Johan George, was born. He was the father of Henry Royer, who was born in Bethel township, Berks Co., Pa., whither his parents had moved. He related most of the foregoing reminiscences to the writer at Mr. Royer's home near Rebersburg, Centre Co., Pa. He farther stated that three of his grandmother's (nee Royer) brothers, John, Daniel and Joel, connected themselves with the German Baptist church at Lancaster, Pa., and afterwards removed to Buffalo Valley, now part of Union Co., Pa. Some of their descendants are still residing there, and others emigrated to Western States, among them is Joel B. Royer at Elmwood, Neb. The writer received the following information from Michael Zug, a well informed historian, of Lebanon, Pa.

Christopher Royer was born Feb. 13, 1718, and died March 14, 1796, aged 78 years, 1 month and 1 day. His wife, Catharine, (nee Royer) was born in Sept. 1728, and died April 28, 1809, aged 80 years, 6 months. Their remains, together with others of the Royer family, rest in the burying grounds at Klopp's church, at Hamlin, Lebanon County, Pa., as read from the tomb stone inscriptions. It is known by tradition, that both Christopher Royer, Sr., and Catherine, his wife, were honest and upright people.

From Lancaster Christopher moved to Rehrersburg, Bethel township, Berks Co., Pa.

Besides the daughter with his first wife, Christopher Royer had five sons with his second wife, Catharine, as follows: John George, Christian, Christopher, Jr., Sebastian and Amos. Prior to 1811, these five brothers resided near Rehrersburg, Berks Co., Pa.

John George Royer, the oldest son of Christopher, Sr., was born at Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 12, 1750, and died July 30, 1823, aged 72 years, 8 mos. and 11 days. About 1780, at Lebanon, Pa., he married Elizabeth Shuey, oldest daughter of Ludwick Shuey, who was born Jan. 13, 1758, in Bethel township, Berks County, Pa. She was a member of the Reformed church, and died Dec. 3, 1830, aged 72 years, 10 months and 20 days. In 1811, he and his family removed from Berks County to Brush Valley, in what is now Miles township, Centre Co., Pa., near where Rebersburg now stands. Here he purchased a fine, large farm from Conrad Reber, after whom Rebersburg is named. This farm remained in the Royer family for many years afterwards. John George and Elizabeth Royer had several sons, all of whom died in infancy excepting one, Henry, (who became the owner of the Reber farm). There were three daughters: Catharine, the oldest, who was married to John Kern; (See history of the Kern family\*); Elizabeth, who was married to Jacob Gift; (See history of the Gift family\*\*); Christina, the third daughter, who died single, in about 1830, aged about 30 years. She was buried in the Rebersburg cemetery.

Henry, the only son of John George Royer and Elizabeth (Shuey) Royer, was married to Miss Mary Gross of New Berlin, Union Co., Pa. He was born in Bethel township, Berks County, Pa., April 6, 1796, and died near Rebersburg, Pa., July 8, 1890, aged 94 years, 3 months and 2 days. His wife, Mary (Gross) Royer, was born March 29, 1801, and died June 25, 1883, aged 82 years, 2 months and 26 days, both of whom are interred in the Rebersburg cemetery. They were people of high character, honored and respected by all who knew them.

Five children were born to Henry Royer and wife: John George Washington, Elizabeth, Phoebe Ann, Elvina Catharine, and Isabella Jane.

\*See Chapter 5, Page 105

\*\*See Chapter 2, Page 33



Col. Henry Royer and His Wife, Mary, Nee Gross. Both Died at Rebersburg, Pa.

See History of Christopher Royer, chap. vi.



John George W. Royer was married to Miss Mary Harter. He died Jan. 12, 1881, aged 53 years, 3 months and 4 days. He is buried at Rebersburg, Pa. His widow still survives him and resides at Rebersburg, Pa. They lived on the old Henry Royer homestead for a number of years. They were blessed with the following children: Laura, Elvina, (who had one child, Theodore,); Mary Elizabeth, Charles Roland, Henry Calvin, Emmon George, Cyrus Theodore, and Ida Minerva.

Mary Elizabeth Royer married John Kerstetter, and resides at Loganton, Pa. They have one daughter, Wilda Ruth.

Charles Roland Royer married Anna Frank, and they reside at Altoona, Pa. Their children are: Montessa, who married William Lytle. They reside at Altoona, Pa., and have two children, Janette and John.

Helen Frank Royer, second daughter of Charles R. Royer, died Jan. 16, 1893, aged 3 years, 7 months and 21 days.

Henry Calvin Royer died Nov. 30, 1857, aged 5 years, 1 month and 3 days.

Emmon George Royer died Mar. 22, 1859, aged 4 months and 3 days.

Ida Minerva Royer died May 27, 1873, aged 13 years, 2 months and 13 days, all three being buried at Rebersburg, Pa.

Cyrus Theodore Royer, who was married to Ida Herlacher, and resides at Loganton, Pa. The following children were born to this union: Randolph, Chauncy, Grace, Earl, George Paul, and one child who died in infancy.

Elizabeth Royer, daughter of Henry Royer, was married to Thomas Wolfe. They had four children: Thomas Newton, Jasper Royer, Anna Minerva, and Mary Jane.

Thomas Newton Wolfe was married three times. His first wife was Melissa Kleckner. They lived at Garrison, Ia., and had four children: Thomas, (who died at Garrison, Ia., at the age of 22 years, and is buried at New Berlin, Pa.); Ollie, Robert K., and J. Lee.

Ollie Wolfe married Eph S. Benner, and they reside at New Berlin, Pa. They have six children: Ada, Ernest, Anna, Catharine, Josephine, and Arlie.

Robert K. Wolfe married May Ferrick. They reside at St. Louis, Mo., and have two children, Thomas Ferrick, and Elizabeth Adele.

J. Lee Wolfe married Mame Bridgens. They live at St. Louis, Mo., and have one child, Olive.

Thomas N. Wolfe married for his second wife, Fannie Schlarbaum, who died in June, 1883. To this union there were born two children: Elsie Brentz, and Edwin F., who resides at Bellewood, Pa.

Elsie Brentz Wolfe married Mr. Hartley, who died in March, 1904. They resided in Iowa, and have one child, Eldon.

For his third wife, Thomas N. Wolfe married Mary Berkey. To this union three children were born: May, Jasper and Myrtle.

Jasper Royer Wolfe died July 29, 1902, aged 57 years, and is buried at Bellewood, Pa.

Anna Minerva Wolfe married David M. Weaver, who died Apr. 4, 1896, aged 50 years, and is buried at Bellewood, Pa.

Mary Jane Wolfe was married to William J. Musser. They live at Lady-smith, Wis. This union was blessed with two children, Elsie and Grace.

Thomas and Elizabeth (Royer) Wolfe lived happily together for many years until both had reached a ripe old age. But death finally separated them. Thomas Wolfe died October 23, 1882, aged 69 years and 29 days and his widow followed him Dec. 11, 1904, aged 82 years and 24 days. Both are buried at Rebersburg, Pa.

Phoebe Ann Royer married Daniel Brungart. They had two children: Elmira Elizabeth, who died Feb. 15, 1850, aged 3 years and 9 days and is buried at Rebersburg, Pa., and Jasper R., who is married to Mary E. Long. They reside in their fine home at Rebersburg, Pa.

Elvina Catherine Royer married Aaron Grieh and resides at Tylersville, Pa. Mr. Grieh died Dec. 16, 1877 aged 51 years, 3 months and 15 days and is buried at Tylersville, Pa. They had nine children as follows: Mary Catherine, George Phares, Arthur James, Newton Aaron, Ann Elizabeth, John Royer, Henry Daniel, Cora Jane and one who died in infancy.

Mary Catherine Grieb married first, Lewis Snook. They resided at Millheim, Pa. Mr. Snook died and is buried at Aaronsburg, Pa. They had six children: Aaron Grieh, Sallie Elizabeth, Olive May, Fred Cleveland, Wallace Koeider and Robert Emery Pattison, the latter of whom is dead.

Aaron Grieh Snook married Sevilla Sholl. They live at Freeport, Ill.

Sallie Elizabeth Snook married Jonathan Steiner and lives at Sunbury, Pa.

After the death of Mr. Lewis Snook, Mary Catherine Grieb (Snook) married her second husband, John Stoner, to which union there was born one daughter, Mary Melissa.

George Phares Grieh died and is buried at Tylersville, Pa.

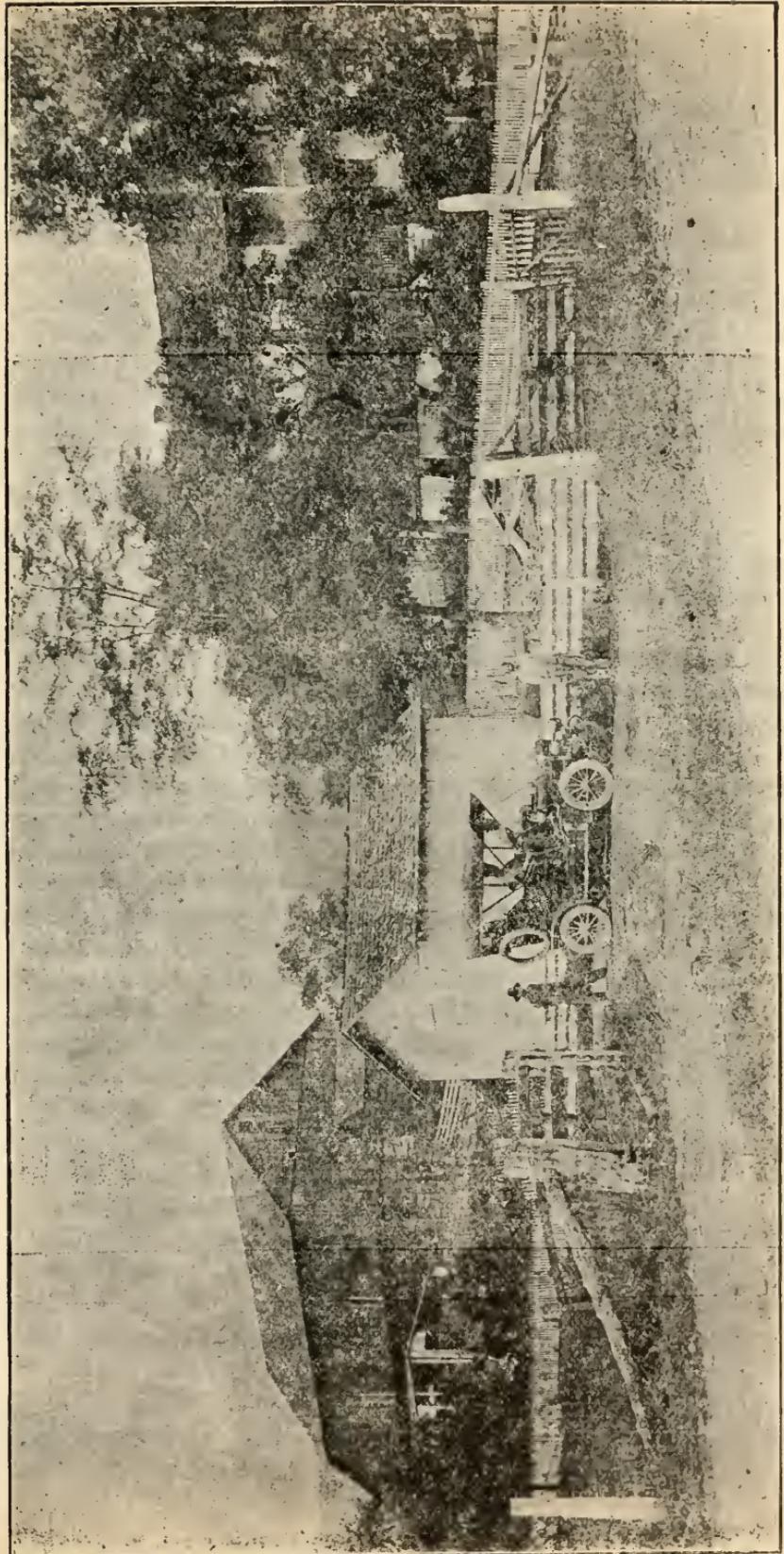
Arthur James Grieh married Margery Condo and resided at Tylersville, Pa. They had six children: George Gross, Cleveland Curtis, Royer Russell, Elsie Elvina, Anna Lula and Nevin Henry.

Arthur James Grieh died Dec. 6, 1898, aged 40 years, 2 months and 29 days and is buried at Tylersville, Pa.

Cleveland Curtis Grieh married Regina Miller, who together have one child, Roxana Miller, and they reside at Ebensburg, Pa.

Elsie Elvina Grieh married Cleveland Rishel. They live at Tylersville, Pa., and have one daughter, Grace.

John Royer Grieh married Eva Carrie. They reside at Tylersville,



The Old Homestead of John George Royer and his son Col. Henry Royer, near Rebersburg.

See History of Christopher Royer chap. vi.



Pa. Seven children were born to this union: William Carrie, Cora Elvina (who died Nov. 1898 and is buried at Tylersville, Pa.) Aaron Russell, Ruth Phoebe Ann, Paul Harrold, one who died in infancy and a baby not yet named.

Henry Daniel Grieb married Margery Grieb. They reside at Tylersville, Pa., and one child, Nina Voneda.

Isabelle Jane Royer married Jacob Philip Kreider. They reside at Wolf's Store, Pa. Mr. Kreider died Jan. 14, 1880, aged 44 years, 8 months and 28 days and is buried at Rebersburg, Pa. The following children were born to this union: Newton Philip, Wallace J., Calvin J., (who died July 23, 1867, aged 8 months and 25 days and is buried at Rebersburg, Pa.,) Rosa May and Henry Royer.

Wallace J. Kreider married Ella C. Hosterman; they live at Wolf's Store, Pa. They have three children: Roy, Philip (who died Dec. 1, 1890, aged 3 days and is buried at Rebersburg, Pa.) and Beatrice.

Henry Royer Kreider married Elizabeth Moyer and resides at Mount Alto, Pa. They have one daughter, Josephine.

In Oct. 1884, when the writer, A. K. Gift, made a visit to Col. Henry Royer, his grand uncle at Rebersburg, Pa., he gave out additional historical facts relating to Brush Valley. Although very old he was still in possession of all his mental faculties. He said: "I am a son of Johan George Royer; my grandfather was the original Christopher Royer, who came from the Rhine Pfalz, South Germany, in 1748. I am now 87 years old, I eat and sleep well. In 1811, when I was 15 years of age, I came with my father's family from Bethel township, Berks county to Brush Valley, now Miles township, Centre county, Pa. Here my father bought and settled on the same farm where I now reside. At that time there was but one house where Rebersburg is now located, a log school-house and a log church. The seats of both consisted of logs laid down, and boards laid across at right angles. There was no stove in the church. The only fire they had during the winter months was a log fire outside of the church. Here the worshippers would warm themselves before the services began. The pulpit was a box with a seat on it and a railing in front of it facing the audience.

About that year (1811) there were but few clearings in the valley.

"Among the first settlers were the Brumgards, Gasts, Shafers, Yericks, Hoys, McCarmans, Walfords, Bierlys and the Royers.

These early pioneers were of a strong, hearty and honest class of people whose word was as good as their bond.

In the solitary house, at that time, in Rebersburg, was a small store, kept by Mr. Ballinger. Our nearest grain market was Reading, Pa., 128 miles away. After I was old enough, I made trips to that town with my father's team.

After Foster's grist mill was built it was the only mill in the valley. It was then owned by Mr. Bickel. There was afterwards a small store at Foster's mill, kept by Duncan and Foster. This Foster was an uncle of the second Foster, who owned the mill.

The valley was then full of wild game, deer, bears, racoons, foxes and wild cats. The creek was full of fish, principally trout.

I had some brothers, but they all died, most of them in infancy. I am the only son living. I had three sisters: Catherine, who married John Kern; Elizabeth, who married Jacob Gift and Christina, who died unmarried in 1830, aged 30 years."

Christian, the second son of Christopher Royer, Sr., who came over from the Rhein Pfaltz, South Germany, in 1748.

Christian was one of the five brothers and was born in Berks county, Pa., in 1864. He was married to Miss Christina Schwanyer. He and his brothers lived near Rebersburg. Finally in about 1799, Christian moved to Reading, Berks county, Pa.

From this place in 1804, he and family migrated to Middlecreek Valley, Northumberland, afterwards Union, now Snyder county, Pa., four miles west of Middleburg, Pa.

In the year, 1804, he bought a farm, whereon was a saw mill and a grist mill.

This he purchased from Conrad Bubb. This mill property is now in 1908 owned by Albert Dreese, formerly known as Grimm's mills. He lived here until in 1820, when he sold his property to a man named Pennypacker, an ancestor of Ex. Gov. Pennypacker, and emigrated with his family to Richland county, Ohio. Here he bought a tract of land, containing six hundred acres, mostly unimproved, government land, but now very valuable. Here he erected the first saw-mill on the Block Fork, of the Mohician Creek, a tributary of the Muskingum River.

He died in Richland county, Ohio, in 1842. This union was blessed with eight children, all of the third generation, namely, Elizabeth, Samuel Isaac, Ephriam, Amos, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison.

Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Christian Royer, was married to Mr. Shouaberger. They had two sons and two daughters, being the fourth generation; Isaac, who resided in Perryville, Ohio; Reuben, residing in Toledo, Ohio. The daughters were Amanda, who resided in Mansfield, Ohio, and Sopheni, who is dead.

Samuel, eldest son of Christian Royer, was born in Reading, Berks county, Pa., in Dec. 1799. He was married, but to whom and when is now not known.

He had seven children, fourth generation, namely, Sarah, married John Bluert, of Crimson, Ohio.

A. Jackson Royer born 1828, married to Martha Peterson, resided in

Lucas, Ohio. A. Jackson Royer is well read in the Genealogy of his branch of the Royers.

Levi was born in 1830, married Miss Mary Bason, of Medina, Wis.

Elnora Royer was born in 1830 and was married to Henry Bolliet, residing at Lodi, Wis. She and her husband were blessed with the following nine children, being the fifth generation, namely Leander Bolliet, born in 1855, married to Miss Ida Bottrell; Calvin, born 1856, married to Miss Lena Anderson; Aretus, born in 1858 married to Ida Hook.

Emma, born in 1860 and is married to Arthur Stewart; Ida, born 1862 and married to Orville W. Steward. Mrs. Steward's address was Morrisville, Wisconsin. She is very much interested in the Royer Genealogy.

Adeline was born in 1866; Chester was born in 1869 and Jacob, the youngest son of Henry and Elnora Bolliet, was born 1873 and is married to Miss Alice Royer.

Winchester Royer, son of Samuel, was born in 1834. He was married to Miss Susan Bell, who died at Mansfield, Ohio.

Ann Royer was born in 1838. She was married to Peter Miller, who died in 1888 in Indiana.

Christiana, the youngest daughter of Samuel Royer, was born in 1842. She was married to Fred Smith, of Cedar Creek, Indiana.

Isaac, the third son of Christian Royer, was married and had the following children:

Enoch was married. His address is Wahpeton, North Dakota.

Elnora Royer married Mr. Jones; her address is Clintonville, Wis.

Sophia Royer married Mr. Gore, whose address is Winchester, Wis.

Amelia Royer, married to Mr. McKinley; address Winechester, Wis.

Savilla Royer, married to Mr. Zohner; address Dale, Wis.

Mahola Royer, married to Mr. Leiby; address Dale, Wis.

Ephriam, the fourth son of Christian Royer is married, but to whom is not known to the writer. He had six children. Albert Royer was married; address was Dassel Station, Minn.; Bedford, married, address Flat Rock, Ohio.

Sarah was married to Mr. Iofford, of Hutchinson, Minnesota.

Christopher Royer, Jr., third son of Christopher Royer, Sr., was born June 19, 1768, in Berks county, Pa., and died October 16, 1849. He was married to Magdaline Gross, who was born March 9, 1769 and died March 17, 1836. For a while they resided at or near Rebersburg, same county, where his brothers resided. In 1807 (or 1811 as some records give it) he removed with his family to Brush Valley, Center county, Pa., and settled near where the town of Rockville is now situated. Here he bought a large tract of land and built a mill north of said town. He also owned a distillery and carried on general farming. It was said

that he was a finely proportioned man and a giant in strength. At one time, for a test, he carried twelve bushels of wheat from the first to the second floor. This was done by loading a bag on each shoulder, and two across over the first. His children were Daniel, Henry, Amos, Jefferson, Joel, Catherine, Elizabeth, Sarah and Barbara.

Daniel Royer was born in 1794 and died Jan. 1876. He was married to Rachael Shutt and was a very successful farmer, very industrious and a good stock man. He was honest and well respected by all who knew him. Daniel's children were Samuel, born Sept. 18, 1818 and died April 8, 1900. He was married to Salsie Kling, but they had no children. They resided on their valuable farm in Lamar township, Clinton county, Pa.

Stephen Royer was born in 1821 and died in 1868. He was married to Maria Long, of Lamar township, Clinton county, Pa. It is said that they had three children, one of whom became a prominent attorney in Ohio.

Phillip, third son of Daniel Royer, was born Nov. 11, 1825 and died June 30, 1895. He was married to Isabelle Harper, who was born Aug. 26, 1830 and was a daughter of George Harper, of Brush Valley, Centre county, Pa. He was the owner of two fine farms and made farming his business. He was a good, honest, and upright christian man.

This family was blessed with eight children.

Clayton, who died March 24, 1891, was married to a Miss Schuyler, a daughter of Lewis Schuyler, of Clinton county, Pa. They had no children.

Calvin was born Jan. 5, 1870, and is married to Miss Yoder. They are farming on the old homestead and have two sons.

Mary Sylvila was born Sept. 4, 1857, and is married to Layman Bierly. They reside in the state of Oregon. He died several years ago, without children.

Alice was born May 6, 1859 and is married to Mr. Dorman, of Clinton county, Pa.

Emma was born March 1, 1863 and is married to Pierce Dornblaser, of Clinton county, Pa. They reside on their farm in Nittany Valley.

Maggie was born June 14, 1865 and married C. N. Kreider, of Nittany Valley, Centre county, Pa. He is in the lumber business and resides in Virginia.

Sadie, daughter of Phillip Royer, was married to Mr Hayes, of Nittany Valley, Pa., and are farming on their own farm. She was born Feb. 8, 1860.

Della Royer is married to a Mr. Brungard, and they are farming on their own farm in Nittany Valley. Della was born Nov. 9, 1872.

John Royer was born in 1830, and was married to Miss Fanny Custard,

formerly from Nittany Valley, Center Co., Pa. Years ago they removed to Missouri, where John died in about 1901, his wife surviving him for some years. He owned a nice farm, made farming his business and financially, he was well to do.

Daniel S. Royer was born Dec. 17, 1836, and was married to Eva Heckman, a daughter of John Heckman of Sugar Valley, Clinton County, Pa. He was a farmer, owning two good farms and resided in Tamar township, Clinton Co., Pa. Years ago he sold his real and personal property, and emigrated to Springfield, Ohio. Their children were Adda, Newton and Nettie.

Adda is married to Rev. Charles Heckert, who is President of Wittemberg College at Springfield, Ohio.

Newton is married, but the writer failed to learn his wife's maiden name. He is a Lutheran minister in good standing. After serving different charges; his salary being increased, from time to time, he took a charge at Brookville, Ohio, where he now resides, (1907).

George A. Royer was born in Feb., 1839. He was married to Annie Luchenbach. He owns a good farm on which they reside, near Akron, Ohio. Both are still living, (1907).

Mary was born in 1833, and died in 1874. She had been married to Thomas Grieb of Sugar Valley, Clinton Co., Pa. They owned a farm and grist mill at that place, but some years ago, they sold out, and went to the state of Missouri. He married his second wife, and is still living.

Lovina was born in 1827, and died in 1869. She was married to Jacob Grieb, who died March 20, 1860. Both are buried in the Lutheran and Reformed cemetery at Tylersville, Clinton Co., Pa. He was a farmer by occupation, and highly respected by his acquaintances. Their children were Daniel C., John, I. N., Samuel and Superba.

Amos, the second son of Christopher Royer, Jr., was born in Northumberland Co., now Snyder, Sept. 12, 1806. It appears that soon after this birth, Christopher, Jr., and family moved to Centre Co., Pa., which was organized in 1800.

In 1831 Amos was married to Miss Elizabeth Frasher, who was born Oct. 2, 1806. Her mother's name was Catharine Crobt, a daughter of Conrad Crobt. She died Nov. 30, 1875, and her husband, Amos, died June 24, 1894. This family was blessed with the following children: John H. Royer, who was born Nov. 4, 1832. He was married to Mary E. Frye, in 1861, who was born in Nov. 1843. To them was born a daughter named, Annie E., in 1862. She married Henry Horner and resides with her husband at Centre Hall, Pa.

John H. Royer enlisted as a private in Co. C., 148 Regt., Pa. Vol. Inf., on Aug. 25, 1862, and died at Washington, D. C., June 30, 1863. He

was a good, brave soldier. His widow is now married to George Y. Weeks, residing at Tyrone, Blair Co., Pa.

Isabel, daughter of Amos and Elizabeth Royer, was born January 1, 1834, married to Alex. Shanron, March 20, 1856, who was born May 23, 1834, and died Oct. 8, 1905. To them was born, William R., Jan. 15, 1857, who died Jan. 10, 1860; Mary E., born Feb. 24, 1859, died Sept. 18, 1860; Amos G., born Jan. 8, 1866, died June 6, 1868; Dora E., born Nov. 26, 1869, died Feb. 14, 1872; John H., born Sept. 26, 1860, married to Martha A. Post, and died Jan. 5, 1902. No children. Sarah J., was born Feb. 28, 1862, single; Anna H., born June 28, 1864, was married to Thomas S. Terry, Jan. 1, 1889. They have one child, Althea, born Oct. 30, 1889. Orris W., was born Nov. 27, 1871, single.

Barbara Royer, daughter of Amos, was born Jan 30, 1835. In Oct. 1862, she was married to Isaac Reish, who was born Dec. 28, 1838. They resided at State College, Pa. Barbara died April 9, 1899. To them were born two daughters, Hannah J., who is married to C. C. Bumgardner, residing at Zion, Centre Co., Pa.

Lizzie M. is married to J. H. Kreamer, residing at State College, Pa.

Rachael was born in April, 1837, and died March 7, 1888. She was married to David Krebs, in Dec. 1861, who was born Feb. 22, 1833, and died April 29, 1887. Comrade Krebs enlisted in Co. C, 1848 Regt. Pa. Vol. Inf. on Aug. 27, 1862. He was wounded at Gettsyburg, on July 2, 1863, and was honorably discharged Feb. 4, 1864. He died some years ago. Both he and his wife Rachael are buried in the Pine Hall Cemetery, Centre Co., Pa. Their union was blessed with one son and four daughters: J. Calvin, the son, resides at State College, Pa.; Ida E., married to B. C. Bloom, resides in Benore; Emma S. is single and resides at State College; Annie H. is single and resides at the same place; Hannah J., the youngest daughter of Amos Royer, was born Oct. 8, 1842, and married G. W. Hoy, deceased. Since then she has not married. Her residence is at State College, Pa. She is in good circumstances, and is the owner of a large and valuable farm.

Jefferson, third son of Christopher Royer, Jr., was born near Rockville, Centre Co., Pa., on Aug. 28, 1808, and died Nov. 26, 1895. He was married to Hannah Gramley, on Nov. 20, 1834, who was born July 17, 1815, and was a daughter of George Gramley. They resided in Miles township, until her death, May 11, 1890, engaged extensively in farming in Centre and Clinton Counties. He frequently bought and sold farms timber tracts.

In 1869, he bought his father-in-law's farm which was a large and valuable piece of land, on account of its fine cleared land, and very valuable timber on part of it. He and his wife were greatly interested in religious matters. They were both members of the Evangelical Association.

They had five children whose names follow: Magdalena, was born Oct. 13, 1835, and died in infancy, Jonathan, James M., Daniel D. and Chesbie.

Jonathan was born Oct. 16, 1836, and was married to Annie Shafer, who died in May, 1901. They resided at Zion City, Pa., near which place he owns a fine farm. He is the Postmaster and owns a dwelling house at that place, with a good store room in which business is done. This family was blessed with two children, Joel and Vergie.

Joel is married to Miss Emma Garbrich, is farming his father's farm, and is doing well. They are without issue.

Vergie is married to Effly Gentzler, whose occupation is farming.

James M. Royer was born in Feb. 1830 and was married, and resided at St. Louis, Mo., where he died at the age of 47 years. It seems his body was brought back to his old home, for it is reported that he was buried at Rebersburg, Pa. He was a soldier in the Civil War. On Oct. 25, 1862, he enlisted and served in Co. G, 147th Regt. Pa. Vol. Inf. and was honorably discharged at the close of the war. He was a good and brave soldier. It is said by his comrades, that he never shirked any duty he was called upon to perform by his superior officers.

S. S. Royer was born August 15, 1846 and was married June 21, 1877 to Miss Mary A. Roush (Reish) who was born Feb. 11, 1855. He located on his father's farm which he now owns and occupies. It is a fine and valuable place, containing about 256 acres with good buildings and other modern improvements. Three children were born to this union: Edwin L., Kline H. and Anneata. The three are now taking courses in the High School and in due time expect to graduate.

Chester A. was born July 8, 1850, married to Perry Gentzler, a practical farmer. They reside in their place located in Nittany Valley, Centre county, Pa. Mr. Gentzler's buildings on this farm, with other modern improvements originally cost quite a fortune. A beautiful grove containing about ten acres, located near the buildings, is planted full of evergreen and all sorts of ornamental trees and shrubbery. Their home residence is very large and commodious. They are good, honest people. They are noted for their hospitality, no one being ever allowed to leave their dwelling hungry.

This family is blessed with three children.

Homer Gentzler, the eldest son, is a graduate of State College and is an instructor at said institution and receives a good salary.

Roy Gentzler is employed in the State College Bank and is doing well. Earle Gentzler is still living at home on the farm assisting his parents.

Henry fourth son of Christopher Royer, Jr., was born in Northumberland, then Union, now Snyder county, Pa., near Middleburg, Pa., on June 11, 1802 and died in Sugar Valley, July 17, 1849, aged a little

over 47 years. He was married to Miss Susan Wolfe, a daughter of George Wolfe, a native of Haines township, Centre county, Pa. She was born August 22, 1811 and died in Brush Valley, August 17, 1844, aged 33 years. Both she and her husband are buried in the cemetery at Rebersburg, Pa.

Henry Royer was a boy in his teens when his father, Christopher Royer, Jr., moved to Brush Valley in about 1819. He and his family settled on one of his father's farms, near Rockville, Pa., and made farming his business during his active life, acquiring a fair competence. During his boyhood he acquired such an education as the schools in those early days afforded, but his good sense and sound judgement made up in a large measure for this lack of training.

With his first wife, Susan Royer Wolfe, the family was blest with the following children: Joseph, Thomas E., Franklin V., Annie, Abigail and Rachael.

In due time after the death of his first wife, Henry married Catherine Frontz. The following children were born to them: Henry G. and George Scott; these were twins, and Isabelle.

Joseph, eldest son of Henry, was born in 1833 and died at Howard, Centre county, Pa., Sept. 27, 1891. He was married to Miss Hannah Heverly, who died Sept. 16, 1905. Their was no issue to this union. Joseph Royer was a prominent merchant and grain dealer.

Thomas E., second son of Henry Royer, was born Sept. 17, 1840. After the Civil War in 1868 he was married to Miss Emma J. Hains, who was born Sept. 6, 1846. She is a daughter of Jeremiah and Susan Hains (Brungart) of Miles township, Centre county, Pa. He is the owner of two valuable farms. He and his wife are liberal and well-to-do people, having retired, they reside in their home in Rebersburg, Pa. Their union was blessed with two children.

Susan M., now the wife of John Long, of Red Oak, Iowa, and Harry H. who is engaged in farming on the old homestead, at Rockville, Pa. He makes farming a success. Harry is married to Miss Lulu Stover, a daughter of Thatius Stover, who was a member of the 148th Reg't Pa. Vol. Inf.

Thomas E. Royer was a veteran soldier during the Civil war. While young and in full flush of manhood on the 25th day of August 1862, he enlisted and offered his services in defense of his country, as a private in Co. A. 148 Pa. Vol. Inf. This company was recruited at Rebersburg, Pa.

His first experience as a soldier was in the battle of Chancellorsville. His next was at Mine Run, Gettysburg, Bristol Station, Auburn Mills and other minor battles; also during the fierce charge made by the 148th at Spottsylvania Court House. He was disabled by a wound for

such work as the members of that famous regiment were usually assigned to. His thumb and third finger of his right hand were shot away, but as soon as his wounds were healed, comrade Royer joined the convalescent corps 51st company and remained on duty until August 25, 1865 when being honorably discharged at the close of the war, with the rank of corporal, he returned to his old home and friends in Brush Valley, Centre county, Pa.

Franklin V. Royer, third son of Henry Royer, was born December 26, 1842 and died July 5, 1900 at Vintondale, Columbia county, Pa. On Jan. 3, 1869 he was married to Miss Susan Brumgard, who was born Jan. 28, 1843. She was a daughter of John Brumgard. They were blessed with two children; Harvey B. Royer was born August 23, 1871. He was married to Rosa Schwenk and resides in Johnstown, Pa. He is a conductor on a trolley line. They have two children, LeRoy and Merrill

Clayton Royer is married to Miss Rebecca Moyer, of Sugar Valley.

They reside about twelve miles west of Johnstown, Pa., where he is engaged in the lumber business. They are blest with five children: Dale, born April 15, 1895 and died Dec. 3, 1896; Mary A. and Abbie A., twins, born July 8, 1898 and died July 9, 1898. The above childaen were born in Green township, Clinton county, Pa.

Charles A. was born in Buffington township, Indiana county, Pa., April 9, 1900.

Earl was born in Westmoreland county, Pa.

Henry G., fourth son of Henry Royer, was born April 10, 1847. In 1868 he was united in marriage to Miss Ellen B. Wolfe, a daughter of Henry Wolfe, of Miles township, Centre county, Pa., who was born April 13, 1848. The first two years after their marriage, they engaged in farming on his father-in-law's farm. After this they moved to Johnstown, Pa., and he became a traveling agent for the McCormick Implement company.

Their issue was one daughter, "Mame" who was born July 17, 1869. She is married to Mack Foulz, a merchant at Bellwood, Pa. They have one child.

At the age of nearly 17 years in Feb. 1864, Henry G. Royer enlisted for the Civil war, joining Co. E. 7th Reg't. Pa. Cavalry. He was honorably discharged on August 23, 1865 at Macon, Ga. It is reported by his comrades that he was a brave and faithful soldier, full of ambition and ready to do his duty.

George S., fifth son of Henry Royer was born April 10, 1847. He was a twin brother of Henry G. Royer whose history has already been given.

On January 19, 1875, George was married to Miss Theresa L. Herb,

who was born October 5, 1852 and died April 11, 1905. This union was blest with three children.

Charles H. Royer, who is one of the principal clerks at Easton, Pa., in the Lehigh Valley Railroad Depot. He is a good, reliable young man.

Clarence R. also resides in Easton and is employed in the Machine Works.

Katherine H., the daughter resides in Easton, but is now, 1907, employed in Philadelphia as a nurse. She is a fine, reliable young lady.

George S. Royer, the father, was a soldier in the regular army having enlisted December 7, 1866, serving in Co. C. 11th Inf. and was discharged December 7, 1869. He was a very honest and useful man, yet the ending of his life's career was very sudden and sad.

For twenty-five years he was employed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. For some years he was conductor on the trains between Easton, Pa. and Jersey City.

On Jan. 14, 1899, at Plainfield, New Jersey, by accident, he was instantly killed. This was indeed a great and sudden bereavement to his beloved wife and dutiful children. His age was 51 years, 9 months and 4 days.

Isabella Royer, eldest daughter of Henry Royer, was born Nov. 25, 1845. She was married to J. D. Johnson on March 25, 1866. Mr. Johnson was born March 9, 1842 and was employed on the Lehigh Valley Railroad for thirty years. Part of this time he served as conductor on passenger trains. Several years ago, however, it was found that his physical condition would not permit him to continue any longer in this vocation. With some reluctance he retired and started a livery and feed stable in the city of Easton, Pa.

The above union was blessed with four children.

Harry K. Johnson resides in the city of Easton, Pa., where he owns and conducts a shoe store, doing a large and profitable business.

Joseph H. Johnson also resides in Easton, Pa. He is extensively engaged in the laundry business and is doing well.

Katie J. Johnson, the daughter, is a well bred and highly educated lady. She is not married and has been for years a professional school teacher, engaged in the city of Easton, Pa.

Annie C. Royer, the second daughter of Henry Royer, was born May 31, 1834. She was married to David Geistwite, who was born Nov. 22, 1823 and died Jan. 22, 1898. He is buried in Brumgards cemetery. During his life he followed farming and lumbering, owning at one time two good farms. He was a good neighbor and honest in his dealing with his fellow-men and liked by all who knew him.

This family was blessed with seven children: James J. Geiswite, the

eldest son, was born March 16, 1853. He was married to Miss Fayette Woomansdorf, a daughter of John Woomansdorf, who resides near Loganton, Clinton county, Pa. He is engaged in farming on his father-in-law's farm. They have no issue.

Jona Cedon Geistwite, second son, was born August 22, 1854.

He is married to Miss Jane Esterline. They reside east from Rebersburg, Pa., on the farm of Clark Gramley. They are blessed with two children, Allen and Edward. This is an honest and thrifty family,

George H. Geistwite, third son was born April 16, 1861. He was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Beck, a daughter of Jonathan Beck, of Sugar Valley. Mr. Geistwite is a farmer by occupation and farms Mr. Joseph Moyer's farm near Centre Hall. Their issue is one daughter, Bessie.

Thomas A. Geistwite, fourth son, was born March 28, 1866. He is a lumberman by occupation now located in West Virginia. He has no family.

David R. Geistwite, fifth son, was born August 3, 1871 and was married to Miss Maggie Shroyer, a daughter of David Shroyer, of Sugar Valley. They have no children.

David is a blacksmith by trade and located at Easville, Sugar Valley.

John H. Geistwite, sixth son, was born August 28, 1876. He is a single man and a laborer by occupation.

Susan F. Geistwite, the daughter, was born April 14, 1856. She joined in marriage with Harvey Snook, who was born March 10, 1852 and died October 30, 1885.

Abazail Royer was born at Rebersburg, Pa., April 2, 1836.

She was married Jan. 2, 1856 to Thomas Brumgard, who was born in Green township, Clinton county, Pa., on Nov. 14, 1833. Mr. Brungard by occupation is a farmer and lumberman. He has a farm of his own and a nice home at Green Bur. He and his wife are hard working people. Their issue was four sons and three daughters.

Newton R. Brungard, eldest son, is married to Miss Jane Walker, a daughter of Jeremiah Walker, of Rebersburg, Pa. They reside at Hyner, above Lock Haven, Pa. He is in the lumber business. Their issue was three sons and ten daughters.

John H. Brungard was married to Miss Mary Strible, of Forest Hill, Union county, Pa. They were blessed with four sons and four daughters. He was a farmer by occupation. He died May 21, 1905.

Harvey C. Brungard is married to Miss Anna Boob, Swengel Station, Union county, Pa. Their issue was four daughters. Mr. Brungard is a lumberman by occupation and resides in Mifflinburg, Pa.

Harry Brungard died in infancy.

Charlotte M. Brangard married Daniel Engle, of Loganton, Pa.

They were blessed with one daughter Ella, an accomplished young woman. Mr. Engle is well-to-do and owns a fine farm.

Margaret E. Brungard was married to Daniel Smith, of Green township, Clinton county, Pa. Their issue was one son. They owned a nice farm of forty acres with good buildings. Some years ago he died but his widow, Margaret, still resides on the place.

Annie F. Brungard was married to Clayton Boob, of Swengel Station, Union county, Pa. They had no children. Annie died June 15, 1894.

Rachael Royer was born October 3, 1838. She married Andrew Ocker who is a farmer by occupation, has also been in the mercantile business for a number of years and to which he also added the lumber business.

This family has been blessed with three sons and five daughters.

Mary J., Emma K., Sadie V., Della J., Agnes E., William H., and two who died in infancy.

Mary J. Ocker was married to Charles Sheats, residing in Madisonburg, Pa.

Emma K. is married to William Rishel, who also reside in Madisonburg, Pa.

Sadie V. is married to Noah Yerick, and they reside in Lock Haven, Pa.

Della J. is single and resides with her parents in Madisonburg, Pa. The full history of this family has not been reported to the writer.

Joel Royer, the fifth son of Christopher Royer, Jr., was born July 17, 1810, and died at Rebersburg, Centre Co., Pa., on Nov. 21, 1893, aged 83 years, 7 months and 17 days. He was the youngest of the children of Christopher Royer, Jr. Joel was never married.

The historian of these sketches was familiarly acquainted with him. It seemed to those who knew him best that he was of a friendly and easily approached disposition. He was a friend indeed to those who were in need and treated them kindly.

In 1847 Captain John A. Sutter, the great pioneer settler of California, commenced the building of a sawmill by digging the mill race at what was afterwards known as Sutters Mill, in Coloma Co., California. More by accident than foresight, the first practical discovery of the precious metal, gold, was made.

In about 1860, when Mr. Royer was at about the age of forty years, when the California gold fever was raging so fiercely over the country, in order to get rich quickly, no doubt, he decided to go to California and dig for gold.

In those earlier days, there being no railroads over the plains and mountains, and the General Freemont Pass over the Rocky Mountains not being so familiarly known, the ocean ship route from the eastern

states to California was generally taken. Mr. Joel Royer and his party took passage at New York City for California, shipping by way of Cape Horn. It was a long, tedious and dangerous route, encountering several very severe storms; sometimes for weeks on the ocean, they suffered for want of food, for a while having nothing but dark brown sugar. They were on the ocean for two months. Finally they arrived in the California "Gold Fields." They began operations. For the first two months Royer and party were not very successful. After a while they "struck it rich." Their field of operation was mostly in the mountain regions, isolated and lonely, for at that time the country was thinly settled. No roads were opened. On several occasions they were snowed in and without much shelter, being far away from supply lines, they were obliged to endure great hardships. He was absent from home and friends for five years. Returning he took the overland route by the mountain paths and over the plains, etc. Mr. Joel Royer in his best years, was a staunch and strong man, capable of great endurance. His ashes rest in peace in the cemetery at Rebersburg, Centre Co., Pa.

Catherine, eldest daughter of Christopher Royer, Jr., was born June 25, 1795, and died Oct. 10, 1878. She was never married, remaining with her father until his death, which occurred in 1849, after which she lived with her sister, Barbara, Mrs. Bierly. She was a remarkable old lady, her mental faculties were not impaired to any great extent in her last years. She could relate many instances that happened years ago. She is buried in the Rebersburg Union Cemetery.

Elizabeth, second daughter of Christopher Royer, Jr., died in 1806. She was married to Henry Smull, who was born May 8, 1799, and died Feb. 2, 1879. He was a farmer and stone mason by occupation. Their children were John C., Harrison, Jefferson T., Mary (Polly), Abigail and Lovina.

John C. Smull, son of Henry Smull, was born in Centre Co., Pa., April 21, 1823, and died March 5, 1898. He was married to Mrs. Amelia, a daughter of Solomon Engle. Her first husband was Samuel Greenhoe, deceased. She died about 1892. Both are buried at Rebersburg, Pa. Mr. Smull was a tailor by trade. He followed this business at Beavertown and at Rebersburg, Pa. At the latter place he was postmaster for some years. Their children were Ira, Alice and Ida.

Abigail Smull was married to Mr. Brownlee, of Stephenson Co., Ill. He was a good soldier in the civil war. He died some years ago.

Mary, familiarly called Polly Smull, a daughter of Henry Smull, was born near Rebersburg, Pa., in 1821 and died in May, 1897. She was married to William Walker, in Jan. 1840. The children of this union were: Amanda, now Mrs. Peter Kessler, of Rebersburg, Pa.; Ira J., who is married to Miss Mariah Peck. He is a farmer in Stephenson Co.,

Ill. Jessie M. died single at the age of forty years. Wilson T. is married to Miss Kate Zimmerman. They reside near Dahotah, Ill. Thomas W. married Miss Annie Loose of Rebersburg, Pa. Emma, now Mrs. A. F. Vanata, of Coburn, Pa. Mary M. now Mrs. J. F. Garthoff, of Coburn, Pa.

Elvina Smull, a daughter of Henry Smull, was married to Peter Klinefelter, of Madisonburg, Pa. Four children were born to this union: Luther, Titus, Charles and Jane. Their former residence was at Madisonburg, and now at Flemington, Clinton Co., Pa.

Sarah J. Smull was born March 15, 1832, and died May 14, 1880. She was married to Samuel Gramley, Esq., of Rebersburg, Pa., who was born March 4, 1827. This family was blessed with four sons and three daughters: Tiras J. died in infancy; Prof. C. L.; Titus M.; Clement H.; Isabella who died in infancy; Naomi J., and Ada.

Prof. C. L. Gramley, eldest son of Samuel, is married to Joanna Weaver, a daughter of George Weaver, of Rebersburg, Pa. The issue of this union was two children: Gertrude, who died some years ago, and is buried in the Union Cemetery at Rebersburg, Pa. Alma is married to Mr. Claut Hains.

Prof. Gramley and wife reside in Rebersburg, Pa. For a number of years he has been a professional teacher in the public schools, and is now (1906), principal of the Rebersburg High school. Prof. Gramley very ably filled the office of Superintendent of public schools of Centre Co. for a period of thirteen years. He is a very able and successful man in the field of education.

Titus M. Gramley married Miss Agnes Loose. They are blessed with five children: Ward is a professor, Waid, Bruce, Eugene, and Orpha, who is a teacher.

Clement H. Gramley, son of Samuel Gramley, married Miss Lizzie Grape, of Clinton Co., Pa.; Clement is a farmer, having bought the old homestead in Miles township, Centre Co., Pa. They have two children.

Ada E. Gramley married William Hubler, and reside in Rockville, Pa. They have two children.

Naomi J. Gramley, youngest daughter of Samuel Gramley, is married to Charles Heckman, of Clinton Co., Pa. They are blessed with two daughters.

Harris Smull was married twice. His first wife was Miss Nancy McGee. She died and in due time thereafter, he married Matilda Hackman. He was a stone mason by occupation. He died at the age of 44 years, 11 months and 27 days. They were all buried in the Union Cemetery at Rebersburg, Pa.

Thomas J. Smull was born May 24, 1834, in Rebersburg, Pa. He was the youngest in the family. When quite young, his grandfather Royer

took charge of him. During his boyhood he attended the public schools in Rebersburg. After arriving at the age of 15 years, he lived with his cousin, Samuel Royer, in Nittany Valley. Here he had a good opportunity to learn to talk and understand the English, which he lacked. At this place he attended school for six years, four months during each year. After leaving school, he taught successfully for eleven terms. Mr. Smull is a successful merchant at MacKeyville, Clinton Co., Pa. He was postmaster for about thirty six years. In the civil war, during the southern invasion in 1863, he enlisted for the emergency. He became a member of 28th. Regt. Penna. State Militia, and was honorably discharged at his home. He is a member of the G. A. R.

Thomas J. Smull was married to Miss Harriet Transue. She was born in Hublersburg, Pa., Nov. 4, 1842. Their children were Lilly E., born July 22, 1874, and died at the age of 8 months. Thomas J. Jr., born Sept. 22, 1875. He is a successful school teacher. James L. Smull, born June 7, 1879, is also an able school teacher.

Sarah, the third daughter of Christopher Royer, Jr., was married to Samuel Winters. She died Nov. 25, 1868. They had no issue. She is buried in the Union Cemetery, at Rebersburg, Pa.

Barbara Royer, youngest daughter of Christopher Royer, Jr., died Aug. 17, 1873, aged 68 years, 8 months and 27 days. She was married to William Bierly, who was born Sept. 18, 1818, and died Sept. 6, 1898. They were blessed with one child, Martha, who was married to Jesse Long, and resides in Rebersburg, Pa.

Sebastian Royer, fourth son of Christopher, Sr., whose second wife's maiden name was Royer, as already noted, was born in Berwick township, Lancaster Co., Pa., June 21, 1785. He married Miss Elizabeth Weber, and removed to Rehrersburg, Berks Co., Pa. In about 1811, he with his brother Christian, and families, migrated to Penns and Franklin townships, Northumberland, now Snyder Co., Pa. Here Sebastian purchased a farm, located near Royer's Bridge, four miles west of Middleburg, containing about 170 acres, the bulk of which is now, 1907, owned by Clark S. Boyer.

Sebastian died Jan. 28, 1829, and tradition says that he was buried in Hassinger's old cemetery, two miles west of Middleburg, Pa. His wife, Elizabeth, nee Weber, survived him and married Geo. Aurand, the grandfather of Rev. Frederick, and his brother, Jacob Aurand, Jr. Elizabeth died in Middleburg and is buried in Hassinger's cemetery. Sebastian and wife were blessed with the following children: John, Samuel C., Catherine, Margaret and Magdalene.

John, the eldest son, was born Nov. 23, 1796, and married Catherine Gemberling, a daughter of Philip Gemberling, who died near Selinsgrove, Pa., in 1859, aged 86 years. John died April 20, 1837. His wife,

Catherine, was born Jan. 4, 1804, and died June 28, 1885. Both she and her husband, John Royer are buried in the old Hassinger cemetery, two miles west of Middleburg. They were honest and respectable people. Some years after Catherine's first husband died, she married Abraham Eisenhower, whom she also survived. With this husband she had one son, Benjamin, who married Miss Harriet Bowersox, a daughter of William Bowersox. Their issue was one daughter, Amelia, who was born July 24, 1860. Amelia was an infant when her mother died, which occurred Nov. 9, 1860. She found a good home with her grandmother, Catherine Eisenhower, who reared and schooled her like her own child. On Aug. 25, 1885, Amelia was married to Charles D. Manbeck, who was born Oct. 5, 1861, near Beaver Springs, Pa. They are blessed with an only daughter, Edna K., who was born Dec. 10, 1890. Mr. Manbeck is engaged in the grocery business in the city of Akron, Ohio, and is doing well. After the death of Amelia's mother, her father, Benjamin, married again, and removed to Michigan, where he reared a family. He died some years ago, but his widow still survives him. Her family history could not be procured.

John Royer, and Catherine his wife, resided on their homestead farm, near Royer's Bridge, which was bequeathed to him by his father, Sebastian. John and his wife, Catherine, were blessed with the following sons and daughters: Aaron C., Philip G., Mary Ann, Carolina and Amelia.

Aaron C., the eldest son, was born in Centre, now Franklin township, on the Royer homestead, on Oct. 26, 1823, died Nov. 23, 1865, and is buried in the Old Hassinger cemetery. He was married to Miss Mary B., a daughter of John Hertz, of Union Co., Pa. She was born Dec. 3, 1836, died July 1, 1904, and is buried in the brick, Lutheran church cemetery, a half mile west of the old cemetery. They owned and lived on the old Royer homestead, four miles west of Middleburg, Pa.

Aaron C. and Mary B. Royer, his wife, were blessed with the following children: John E., the only son, who was born in Snyder Co., Pa., Nov. 4, 1863. He was married to Miss Alice J. Bingaman, a daughter of Frederick and Mary, nee Smith, Bingaman. Alice J. was born in Beavertown, Pa., Nov. 16, 1862. He owned and lived on his farm near Rebersburg, Centre Co., Pa., which he sold and then bought a farm near Dola, Ohio, on which (1907) he and his family still reside. They were blessed with six children. One was born in April, 1887, and died in infancy; James S., born Sept. 4, 1889; Mary B., born Sept. 1, 1892, and died Oct. 20, 1902; Helen E., who was born July 9, 1896; Charles D., who was born May 15, 1898, and Ruth F., who was born July 14, 1901. All their children are living at home, excepting James S. Royer, the eldest son, who was living in Alabama.

Ellen V., eldest daughter of Aaron C. and Mary B., his wife, was born Oct. 1, 1859. She is married to John S. Kauffman. They reside on their farm four miles west of Middleburg, in Franklin township. To this union five sons and one daughter were born, as follows: Aaron Boyd, born Nov. 1, 1881, married to Mary Ritter; William R., born Sept. 7, 1883, married Miss Alverna E. Walter; Charles Samuel, born Dec. 7, 1885; John Edwin, born Aug. 1, 1888; Russell Royer, born Nov. 7, 1900, and Laura Alice, born March 14, 1905.

Eve Anna, second daughter, was born April 4, 1857, and was married to Byron H. Edmonds, a son of Rev. L. C. Edmonds. They reside in Ohio, on their farm near Wooster. Four children were born to these parents: Ira Calvin, who was born Feb. 17, 1886, and was drowned in Lake Erie, in Cleveland, Ohio, July 27, 1903, aged 17 years, 5 months and 10 days. A daughter was still born June 4, 1889. A daughter, born Dec. 19, 1895, named Mary Eliza. A daughter born March, 29, 1902, named Ruth Evelene.

Philip C. Royer, second son of John and Catherine Royer, nee Gemberling, was born Dec. 14, 1834, in Centre, now Franklin township, Snyder county, Pennsylvania. Philip was married to Miss Amelia Bowersox, a daughter of William Bowersox. She was born May 21, 1834, and died without issue on July 26, 1856, and is buried in the old Hassinger cemetery. Later he married Miss Mary A., also a daughter of William Bowersox. She was born in Centre, now Franklin township, Snyder Co., Pa., June 17, 1836. They resided on the old Royer home-stead. Afterwards he sold his half interest to his brother, Aaron C., and in 1860, they migrated to near Bellevue, Ohio, where he bought a farm, residing there until 1877, when he sold out and removed to St. Joe county, Mich. Here he followed farming and afterwards bought a farm for himself.

Philip's wife, Mary A., died July 10, 1898. He died Feb. 4, 1899. Both are buried in the Three Rivers cemetery, Mich.

They were blessed with four sons: John W., who was born in Pennsylvania, April 14, 1855. He was married to Miss Kate Ott, who have one son, Mead Royer, residing at Three Rivers, Mich.

Gellard A., who was born Aug. 20, 1861, in Ohio. He married Miss Martha Spigelmeyer. They reside at Mendon, Mich., and have no children.

Philip G. Royer and wife also had two sons, Bedford and Luther, both dying at Bellevue, Ohio, and are buried there.

Mary A., eldest daughter of John and Catherine Royer, his wife, was born March 11, 1826, and died Jan. 29, 1899. She is buried in the Middleburg, Pa., Union cemetery. She married Joseph Bolender, a son of George Bolender. Joseph was born Aug. 19, 1823.

They resided in the borough of Middleburg, Pa. By trade he was a carpenter and cabinet maker. He was a good husband and a kind father, a conscientious and patriotic citizen. He was a brave soldier in the Civil War. Having enlisted in August, 1861, he joined Co. D., 76th Zouave Penna. Regiment, and was appointed a corporal in his company. A few weeks before his term of three year enlistment had expired, and at a time when his beloved wife and small children counted the days when the father would be a welcome guest at home, word was received that the father had taken sick and had died in the hospital at White House Landing, Va., Aug. 5, 1864. He is buried there. Thus gladness was so quickly turned into sorrow and weeping.

They resided in their home in the borough of Middleburg, Pa. Their union was blessed with the following children:

John Edwin Bolender, eldest son of Joseph and Mary A., nee Royer, was born Jan. 25, 1849. For his first wife he married Miss Annie Moyler, with whom he had three children. Mamie, who married George Middleswarth, and resides in Lewistown, Pa.

William G. is married and resides in Washington county, Pa.

Clayton is married and resides in Adamsburg, Pa.

John's first wife died. In due time he married his second wife, Mrs. Youngman, nee Specht, with whom he had one child, Maud, who lives at home with her parents in Beaver Springs, Pa.

George C., second son of Joseph and Mary A., was born Oct. 23, 1879. He is buried in the Middleburg Union cemetery.

Emma Louisa, eldest daughter, was born Feb. 24, 1846, and was married to Benjamin Bachman, a son of Israel. He served two terms in the Civil War. The first time in Co. F, 182 Regt.; the second term in Co. A, 208 Regt. Pa. Vol. Inf., and was honorably discharged therefrom.

Benjamin and Emma L., his wife, were blessed with one daughter, Carrie Violet, who married W. A. Lutz, residing at Shippensburg, Pa. They have one son, William B.

Amelia, second daughter, was born March 21, 1852. She married Newton S. Bachman, also a son of Israel. They reside in Middleburg, Pa. Their issue was two children: Lester C., who was born August 24, 1872. He is married to Miss Annie Mary, a daughter of John Renninger and resides in Middleburg, Pa. They were blessed with two children; Jay R. and a daughter who died, aged 5 years and is buried in the Middleburg cemetery.

Mabel E., daughter of Newton S. and Amelia C. Bachman was born March 15, 1876. She resides with her parents in Middleburg, Pa.

Carolina, the second daughter, died about 1837, aged 14 years and is buried in the old Hassinger cemetery.

Amelia, youngest daughter of John and Catherine Royer, was born



Catharine, Wife of John Royer, Nee Gemberling, Mother of  
Amelia, Wife of the Author.

See History of Christopher Royer, chap. vi.



Amelia, Daughter of John and Catharine Royer, Now Wife  
of the Author.

See History of Christopher Royer, chap. vi.



July 10, 1832. On May 24, 1855 she was married to A. K. Gift. They resided on their farm near Paxtonville, Pa., until 1866. After the Civil War they moved to their home in the borough of Middleburg, Pa. and have resided there ever since with the exception of twelve years that they lived in Nebraska.

For a full history of their children see history of the Gift family.

Samuel C. Royer, second son of Sebastian and Elizabeth Weber Royer his wife, was born Feb. 2, 1803, in Northumberland, now Snyder Co., Pa. He was married to Miss Annie Kreamer, who was born Nov. 14, 1815. Samuel died in Miles township, Centre county, Pa., on June 25, 1875, aged 72 years, 4 months and 23 days.

His wife died at the same place on April 12, 1879, aged 64 years, 4 months and 23 days. Both have been laid to rest in the cemetery at Brungard's church east of Rebersburg, Pa. They resided in their home not far from the above named church.

This union was blessed with the following children: Isaac C. B., the eldest son was born Nov. 18, 1838 and was married to Miss Elizabeth Artal on Oct. 25, 1868. They reside in their home near Rebersburg, Pa.

Henry W. was born July 3, 1843. On March 27, 1874 he married Miss Lydia Huber. Both are still living in 1907.

George E., third son, was born Nov. 28, 1846. On May 25, 1871 he married Miss Hannah Grimm. They are still living, 1907.

The daughters were Mary E., born Jan. 8, 1849. She was married to Henry Miller on Oct. 26, 1879. They reside in Lock Haven, Clinton county, Pa.

Amelia C. was born Oct. 1, 1851. She resides in Lock Haven. On June 15, 1876 she was married to William Williams.

Jennie B. was born Jan. 16, 1853. On Dec. 25, 1879 she was married to William F. Gramley, who died May 23, 1890, aged 33 years. He is buried near Loganton, Pa. Jennie lives at present (1907) in Lock Haven, Clinton county, Pa.

Chester A. was born August 28, 1857. On June 25, 1880 she was married to Lewis Mertz, who died Oct. 28, 1888 in Lock Haven, Pa., and is buried there. Chester A. lives in Clintondale, Clinton county, Pa.

The following children of Samuel C. and Annie Kreamer Royer died: Jacob S. was born May 9, 1845 and died three years later.

A daughter named Phebe, born Jan. 14, 1855 and died August 5, 1871, aged 16 years, 6 months and 22 days. She is buried in the cemetery at Brungard's church.

Catherine E., the eldest daughter of Sebastian and Elizabeth Weber Royer, his wife, was born near Rehrersburg, Berks county, Pa. March 3, 1787. In about 1810 she came with her father's family to Middle-

creek Valley, Northumberland, now Snyder county, Pa. She married John Gramley, who was born Sept. 22, 1783 and died Sept. 29, 1825. Some years after she became a widow she married a Mr. Bair, a widower, whom she also survived.

She died August 29, 1865, aged 78 years, 5 months and 26 days. She is buried in the Rebersburg Reformed cemetery. John and Catherine E. Royer Gramley were blessed with the following children, three sons and one daughter:

Joseph, the eldest son, was born July 22, 1811 and died March 9, 1884, aged 72 years, 7 months and 17 days. He was united in marriage with Miss Esther nee Schmeltzer Gramley. She was familiarly called "Hettie" by her friends. She was born in White Deer township, Union Co., on July 21, 1814 and died Dec. 21, 1906, aged 92 years and 5 months. Both she and her husband were good, honest and upright people.

They were blessed with the following children given in order as to age: Hannah Margaret, the eldest daughter was born April 5, 1835, in Miles township, Centre county, Pa.

She was married to David Kohl. This union was blessed with eight children, two died and one is buried at Millmont, Union county where the parents lived at that time. They afterwards removed to Freeport, Illinois. At this place two more of the children died and are buried six miles west of Freeport.

At this place on August 24, 1872 the mother died. She is buried in the same cemetery beside her children. Of the four sons remaining one resides in Iowa where their father, David Kohl, has since removed.

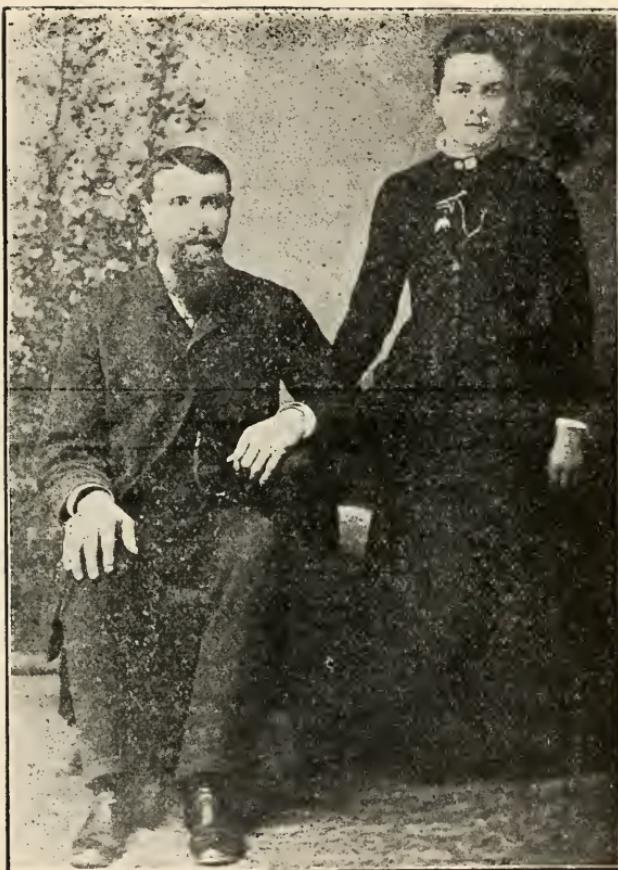
Mr. David Kohl married his second wife but there is no issue. They reside in Webster City, Iowa. His son, Newton, also lives in that city. He is married but has no issue.

Charles is married and to them were born five daughters. He was superintendend of public schools for a period of five years and in about 1905 he died. His widow and two of his daughters are engaged in teaching school. They are in very good financial circumstances.

Jasper is married and the issue is two ohildren. Both these children are college graduates. He is the owner of several fine and valuable farms, one in Iowa and one in South Dakota.

Joseph S. works for a railroad company as operator and ticket agent. He is the owner of a fine home in Gold Field, Iowa, and a good farm in Colorado.

Benjamin S. Gramley, eldest son of Joseph was born Nov. 14, 1836 and he is married to Margaret Spangler. They reside near Kainsville, Ill. where he has accumulated much valuable real estate, consisting of four fine farms of 160 acres each and three houses and lots in town.



Jennie B. Gramley, Nee Royer, and Her Husband, Wm. F.  
Gramley, Deceased.

See History of Christopher Royer, chap. vi.



He and his wife were blessed with ten children. One child died and is buried at Madisonville, Pa., and one son, Abner, died and is buried at Kainsville, Ill. Four other sons and three daughters are still living.

A daughter named Diana is married to Jeremiah Lutz. They have no children, but they own a fine farm containing 150 acres in Kaine county, Ill.

Benjamin, son of Charles, is married to Miss Alice Luse, from Rebersburg, Pa. They have five children living: Lizzie, Cora, Paul and two small children. They are farming on their father's farm.

Mazie Gramley is married and resides with her husband on a fine fruit farm in California. They have no issue.

Irvin Gramley is married and has two sons and farms one of his father Benjamin's farms.

Ira is married to Miss Kate Bair, of Rebersburg, Pa. They have two children. He lives in southern Kansas and owns a farm of 400 acres of land.

Benjamin's daughter, Katie, married a Mr. Fuller. They have three children, one son and two daughters. They reside near Elburn, Ill., on their farm.

Esther is married but has no children. They live in Aurora, Ill., in one of her father's houses.

Catherine Anna was born July 7, 1838 and died August 6, 1839 at Rebersburg, Pa.

Sylvester, second son of Joseph Gramley, was born Oct. 8, 1839. He was united in matrimony with Sidna Brumgard; he died June 17, 1868. Their issue was two daughters and one son who reside in Aaronsburg, Pa.

Alice married a Mr. Auman, living near Mifflinburg, Pa., engaged in farming on the farm of Rev. Frederick Aurand.

Esther is married to a Mr. Holter, living at Howard, Pa. Sometime after the death of Sylvester his widow married John Hoy, Jr., residing at Hublersburg, Pa.

Mary Louisa, third daughter of Joseph Gramley, was born June 12, 1841. She was united in marriage with Reuben Smull and together they reside on their excellent farm at Smulton, north from Rebersburg, Pa. They were blessed with one son George H., who is married to Miss Blanche Stover. He is engaged in investments and insurance business and is doing well, residing at Smulton, Pa.

Jestie, third daughter of Joseph Gramley, was born March 14, 1845. She was married to Simon Smull. Their issue was ten children. Simon, one of their sons, died. Charles, the eldest is a school teacher and is married and has six children, three sons and three daughters.

Herbert is married but has no issue. He is a stone mason. Edward

is married and has two children. He is Postmaster at Smulldown, Pa., and runs a general store.

George is working in Ohio in the shops.

Joseph works in Clinton county on a farm near Keyville.

Esther is married to Harvey Sowers, who carries on a general clothing store.

Catherine is married and lives in Milton, Pa. Her husband is a book-keeper.

Jestie is married to Jesse Weist who died in 1906. Some of the younger children have died.

James J. Gramley, sixth son of Joseph, was born Jan. 28, 1843. His matrimonial partner in life is Miss Mary Royer, a daughter of Jacob Royer, of Madisonburg, Pa. Their issue was eight children of whom six are still living, three sons and three daughters.

Anna Minerva, the eldest daughter, was married to Joseph Spangler. Their family was blessed with eight children, seven of whom are living. Carl, Ward, Charles, Carrie, Florence, Dorothy and Ellen.

Mrs. Anna Spangler died about 1904. She is buried three miles south of Freeport, Ill.

Ada Rebecca was married to Fred Yocum. They are living at Hublersburg, Pa. He is in the lumber business and is well-to-do.

Ammon Austin, son of James, is married to Miss Emma Dietz. They were blessed with ten children: Roy, Edgar, William, Mary A., Anna, Edna, Mabel and three who have died. Ammon is farming near Howard, Pa.

Ellis James, son of James J., was married in Stephenson Co., Ill., to Miss Lizzie Phile. After the death of his father-in-law, he bought the farm, containing 160 acres, with fine buildings thereon. It is a good and valuable property. This family was blessed with four boys of whom only two are living. Their farm is located four and one half miles east of Freeport, Ill.

Joseph, third son of James J., is married to Miss Fortner and lives two miles from Dakota, Ill. He is engaged in farming on his father-in-law's, Mr. Fortner's, fine farm. This farm contains 300 acres, whereon are erected a very large and fine dwelling house and barn. Joseph and wife are well to do. They have one daughter.

Carrie Esther, third daughter of James J., married Fred McNair. They have one daughter, named Helen. They owned and occupied a fine farm, containing 240 acres, located two and one-half miles south of Elburn, Ill. Her husband died in 1905, and is buried there. Since then the farm is rented on an annual cash rental of \$1185. Carrie and her daughter are well provided for.

Mabel I., youngest daughter, married Herbert Bartley. Her husband

is a printer by trade. They have one child, and reside in Lock Haven, Pa.

George Schmeltzer Gramley, seventh son of Joseph, married Miss Mary J. Brumgard, to whom was born one daughter, Florence. He is farming, and owns two good farms near Salona, Clinton Co., Pa.

Charles H. Gramley, eighth son of Joseph, was born Sept. 28, 1847, and was united in marriage with Jestie Weaver. The family was blessed with two sons and one daughter. Oliver and Pines were both railroad-ers, working on the same train in Iowa. Oliver was engineer and Pines as conductor. One morning Oliver being a little late, the train had just started, when he made a jump, having hold with one hand, he slipped on the ice and fell under the car wheels, and was instantly killed. He carried an insurance of \$1000 which was paid to his widow and child. In due time thereafter, the widow married Pines, her first husband's brother. They have one child, Rosie.

Rosie, sister of Oliver and Pines, married a doctor who is well to do. They have an issue of three children.

Jestie, wife of Oliver and later wife of Pines, died, and was buried in Iowa. Two years later Pines married a Miss Dressler, originally from Pennsylvania. They had two children, Earl and Edna. The latter mar-ried a farmer, and who reside on their own farm, and have one child.

Earl is still single (1907). Pines second wife, nee Dressler, also died, and in the fall of 1907, he married his third wife. At present he is keeping a restaurant in St. Louis, Mo.

Andrew J. Gramley, ninth son of Joseph Gramley, was born May 24, 1861. He was married to Mary J. Brumgard, who was a full cousin of his brother George's wife. For many years he followed preaching for the Evangelical Association of which he is a member.

He is a man of talent and ability. In 1905, on account of bad health, he had to quit his chosen calling.

Andrew J. was married to Mary J. Brumgard. He bought a berry and fruit farm near Mansfield, Ohio. This family was blessed with two daughters and one son. One is married to a Mr. Lose, with whom he has one child. Emma, second daughter, and Oliver, the son, reside at home.

Joseph Austin, the youngest living son of Joseph Gramley, was born May 18, 1849. He was married to Abbie Weber, and resides in Mifflin-burg, Union Co., Pa. He is a veterinary surgeon by profession. This union was blessed with eight children. The eldest is William, who is married, but has no issue. They reside at Spring Mills. He is a mail carrier on Rural Route, No. 1. They have two sons and three daughters.

Charles is clerking in Mifflinburg, Pa.

Edward is a conductor on a trolley line in Philadelphia, Pa. He is married, and has two sons.

Esta is married and resides in Lock Haven, Pa. They are well to do. Their union is blessed with two sons; Oliver who is married, and resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He is an employee of a Railroad Co.

Pines lives in Mifflinburg and has employment in the railroad office.

Emma lives at home.

Austin was married, but his wife dying, he married his second wife, but there was no issue.

The following is a list of the children of Joseph Gramley, who have died in Miles township, Centre Co., Pa., without issue:

John Calvin, born Feb. 8, 1853, died July 18, 1855.

A son born Jan. 8, 1854, died Jan. 8, 1854.

William Byrum, born March 12, 1855, died Oct. 25, 1857.

Emma Jane, born Oct. 23, 1857, died April 20, 1877.

Ason born Feb. 4, 1861, died Feb. 4, 1861.

John, second son of John Gramley, Sr., was born Jan. 1, 1814, and died March 9, 1865. He was married to Maria Snader from Lebanon, Pa. This union was blessed with three sons and one daughter.

Susannah married Henry Richard, residing in Cedarville, Ill. They have two sons and two daughters. Mr. Richards is the postmaster and Justice of the Peace at Cedarville. His son, Oliver Gramley, is married and also resides at Cedarville. They have one son and one daughter. Both are graduates from the college at Freeport, Ill. Oliver was successful in business and accumulated much wealth.

Byron is married and has two sons, one of them dying at the age of 15 years. They reside in Chicago, Ill.

Joel, third son of John Gramley, Sr., is married and had a family of children but the writer was not successful in obtaining their names, or other statistics. Enough however is known that the family lived in the state of Indiana, and that the parents died there.

Dinah, daughter of John Gramley, Sr., married Mr. Reed. They resided in the state of Indiana. It is known that she and her husband have passed away. They had issue, but there is no information as to how many children, nor their names.

Margaret, second daughter of Sebastian Royer, was united in marriage with George Dreese, Sr. They lived on their farm in Beaver township, Snyder Co., Pa. They were blessed with the following children: One son, George, Jr., who was married to Miss Rebecca Blouch. They removed to Indiana Co., Pa., where he bought considerable real estate.

They had nine children: Elizabeth, Catherine, John, Amanda, George W., Minnie, Emma, Ada and Grant, who, with his sister, Elizabeth, has died. The parents, George and wife, Rebecca, have passed away, and are laid to rest in the cemetery at Cookport, Pa.

Elizabeth, eldest daughter of George and Margaret Royer Dreese, mar-

ried Samuel Winter. They live on their farm north of Beavertown, Pa. Elizabeth died March 17, 1880, aged 65 years, 1 month, 23 days; her husband, Samuel, died Feb. 2, 1896, aged 86 years, 1 month, 27 days. Both are buried in the cemetery at Beavertown. Their children were one son, Isaac, and one daughter, Rachael. Isaac is residing at Beavertown. Rachael married Reuben Greenhoe, and lived at Beavertown, Pa. He died May 28, 1899. His wife Rachael died March 18, 1901. Both are buried in the Beavertown cemetery. They had eight children: Annie, Jane, Mary, Libbie, William, Charles W., Jacob and Frank E.

Annie is married to Rev. C. M. Aurand, who is a successfull Lutheran minister and now (1907) has a charge at Martinsburg, Blair Co., Pa. They have two children: Gertrude, who graduated from Irvin College, and is married to Rev. Harry Michael. They reside at Northumberland, Pa.; and Charles G. who is a student at the Gettysburg, Pa. College.

Jane is married to W. H. Getz, residing at Dunkirk, Ohio. They have six children: Mary, Vernon, Mabel, who is married to John Moser, Ralph, Ruth, and Leonard.

Mary C. is married to Jacob Aigler, residing at Beavertown, Pa. They have two children; Reuben G. and Jennie E.

Libbie and William are single. William graduated with the class of 1905, from the Central State Normal School at Lock Haven, Pa.

Charles W. and Jacob died in infancy, and Frank E. died at the age of 20 years. All are buried at Beavertown.

Mary, the second daughter of George Dreese, Sr., was married to John Gramley. They moved from Union, now Snyder County, to Indiana County, Pa. They both died and are buried at Hillsdale, Pa. They had one son named Aaron.

Catherine (Katie) third daughter of George Dreese, Sr., married George Goss and moved to Indiana county, Pa. This union was blessed with nine children as follows: Jeremiah, Mary, Wilson (who was in the Civil War) John, George, Kate, Abbie, Isaac (who was in the Civil War) and Libbie.

George died while a soldier in 1863; Mary, Jeremiah and Wilson have all died. The parents have also died and they are buried in the Hillsdale, Pa. cemetery, excepting the daughter, Mary, who is buried in the Boons Mountain cemetery, Clearfield county, Pa. Margaret, fourth daughter of George Dreese, Sr., was married to Jacob Snook. They had two children, Marie and Isaac, who died, his father, Jacob, also dying and both are buried at Beavertown, Pa. The widow, Margaret Snook, moved to Indiana county, Pa., where she died and is buried at Hillsdale, Pa.

Grandfather George Dreese, Sr., died and it is said is buried at Beavertown, Pa. Grandmother Dreese moved to Indiana county after

the death of her husband and lived with her children. She died about 1854 and is buried at Dixonville, Indiana county, Pa.

Magdalene, third and youngest daughter of Sebastian Royer, was united in marriage with Lawrence Haines. They lived on their farm along the public road leading from Middleburg to Freeburg now in Washington township, Snyder county, Pa. This farm is now (1907) owned by John Meiser. Lawrence had a brother named Frederick, who was a millwright by trade and was the father of our esteemed friend, L. R. Haines, of Beaver Springs, Pa. It is said that Frederick Haines built the first saw and grist mill near Royer's bridge in Beaver township. It is also said that Lawrence Haines and his wife are buried at Freeburg, Pa. The writer is not familiar with the history of this family. Some data, however, was obtained from Mrs. Malinda Earnest, of No. 2517 Barclay street, Baltimore, Maryland. She says: "I want to trace farther my relationship to Sebastian Royer (who was a son of Christopher Royer, Sr., who came from the Rhine Pfaltz, South Germany in 1748.) My grandmother, Magdalene, was Sebastian's daughter. She married Lawrence Haines. Their daughter was married to Jacob Long, who was my father. I am married to Wesley H., son of John Earnest, of Millerstown, Pa. My husband is an iron moulder by trade. We have a Royer organization. C. R Keifer, of Hagerstown, Maryland, is the secretary. He is a son of Christian Keifer, who was married to Anna Royer. The Franklin county, Pa. Royers belong to this branch."

At Akron, Ohio they have a similiar Royer organization. J. C. Keller, of No. 166 Cuyahoga street, is the secretary. Mrs. Keller was a great-granddaughter of Christopher Royer, whom they claim as their ancestor, who was born October 25, 1760 in York county, Pa. He was married to Margaret Roblin, who was born in 1776. The Akron, Ohio, Royer association, however, gives the birth of this Christopher Royer as 1769 and that of his wife as 1776. Her name is given by them as Margaret Kopelin. Both accounts agree as to their children viz: Jacob, John, Samuel, Jonathan, Reuben, Amcs, Catherine, Lydia and Elizabeth. It seems that this Christopher Royer removed with his family from York county to Union county, Pa., and in about 1826 removed to Stark county, Ohio, where he died May 3, 1845. Many of his descendants still reside there and near Akron, Ohio.

Annual re-unions are held at Lakeside Park, near the city of Akron, Ohio. The writer has received a number of invitations to attend these pleasant re-unions.

It seems also that at and in the vicinity of Rockford, Ill., a branch of Royers reside, who also have an organization. On August 25, 1896 they held a meeting at Rockford, Ill., and among other officers Jacob G. Royer was elected secretary. During this meeting resolutions were

passed with reference to a legacy in the shape of valuable real estate in the city of St. Louis, Mo. The three branches named above, those in Franklin county, Pa., those at Akron, Ohio and the last named branch at Rockport, Ill., are all working to secure this coveted legacy and the writer, no doubt a remote relative, wishes them success in this undertaking and hopes that full justice may be done them.

The foregoing Jacob Z. Royer, claims that Christian Royer was his great-grandfather. (This may have been the Christian Royer, who was one of the five sons of Christopher Royer, Sr., who came from the Rhein Pfaltz, South Germany in 1748.) Christian Royer was born in 1764 in Berks county, Pa. and was married to Christina Schwanger in 1804. They migrated to Union, now Snyder county, Pa. Here he owned a farm, grist-mill and saw-mill four miles west from where Middleburg is now located. In about 1820 he sold out and removed to Richland county, Ohio. More will be said of this family later. Some of the foregoing history has been contradicted. Jacob Z. Royer says his great-grandfather, Christian Royer, was the only son of Jean (John) Royer, who was the son of Jaques (Jacob) Royer, who was the brother of Sebastian Royer.

It seems that in 1764, one Pierre Laclede Lingnestre, a Frenchman, established and Indian Trading Post where the city of St. Louis is now situated. Some years afterwards Jaques (Jacob) Royer, Sr., accumulated a great deal of real estate now almost in the heart of the great city of St. Louis, which he leased to certain parties, it is said, for a period of 99 years. This territory has all been built up since with elegant resides and costly business blocks. This claim for the past years has caused much excitement among the different branches of the Royer family in the United States, who claim to be legal heirs of the said Jaques Royer and have instituted legal proceedings in the courts of St. Louis against the parties now in possession of said real estate. It is now said to be worth from \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000. Much of this information was obtained from Mrs. Melinda Earnest, of Baltimore, Md., and from Mr. Michael Zug, of No. 138 Cumberland street, Lebanon, Pa. He is a reliable historian and deserves a great deal of credit. His ancestors on his mother's side was a Sebastian Royer (Reyer) who imigrated from the Palatinate with four of his sons in 1718. His ancestor on his father's side was Ulrich Zug, who came from Canton Zug, Switzerland, in Sept. 1727. Mr. Zug has written a genealogical history of the Royer branches in which he is interested and which will be very interesting to all when published.

The writer will now resume the history of the sons of Christopher Royer, our ancestor.

Amos, fifth son of Christopher Royer was born about 1790. He was married and had four children.

Thomas Royer, who is married and resides in Perrysville, Ohio. Pierce Royer is married. His address is also Perrysville, Ohio.

Alice Royer is married; the name of her husband is not known to the writer, address Tightner, Ohio.

Amanda Royer is married to Mr. Balliet. Their address is Mansfield, Ohio.

Thomas Jefferson, the sixth son of Christian Royer, was married and had an only son, Clinton. He is married but to whom and where residing is unknown to the writer.

Jaines Madison Royer is also married and has two sons, namely George and Retta. Both sons are living at Truesdale, Kansas.

Sarah Royer, the eighth and youngest of Christian Royer's children was married to Mr. Shanaberger. They had five children, namely Robert Shanaberger, who resides at Lucas, Ohio. Leah Shanaberger, who was married to Merks, of Lucas, Ohio. Lucinda Shanberger, who was married to Mr. Kling, of Lucas, Ohio.

Lovina Shanaberger was married to Mr. Patterson, residing in Perrysville, Ohio.

Ephriam Shanaberger, the youngest son, resides in Sygnott, Ohio.

The historian of the family of Christian Royer was unable to procure many of the names of the parties married to, as well as of the time of birth and death. This seems to have been lost in the oblivion of time.

The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness for a part of the foregoing genealogical history of Christian Royer and others to his friend, Michael Zug, a reliable historian of the city of Lebanon, Pa. In return he has received the data of A. Jackson Royer, of Lucas, Ohio. He was a son of Samuel as already noted.

Mr. Zug has written a history of another branch of the Royer family of which he is a direct descendant.

Amos, the fifth and youngest son of Christopher Royer, Sr., was born, we presume, in Berks Co., Pa., in about 1790. When grown to manhood, he lived near Rehersburg, said county, where his brothers resided about 1804 to 1811. When the brothers left, Amos also migrated elsewhere.

In Oct. 1884, while the writer was on a visit to Colorado, Henry Royer his grand uncle, residing near Rebersburg, Centre Co., Pa., amongst other family reminiscence, related that his uncle, Amos Royer, migrated from Rehersburg to Westmoreland Co., Pa., and that Amos had been married, and had five daughters, but no sons, and that he died in that county.

At the time Col. Royer gave out this data, he was 87 years old. He died July 8, 1890, aged 94 years, 3 months and 2 days.

The historian of these sketches made great efforts to trace the descend-

ants of Amos Royer in that county, but did not succeed. It is supposed by some, that he did not remain long in said county, and no correspondence having been kept up, he was lost to his relatives.

The historian, has now completed the biography of the five sons of their original ancestor in the United States, Christopher Royer, Sr., who came over from the Rhein Pfoltz, South Germany, in 1748, 159 years ago, but he does willingly admit that many unavoidable little errors may have been committed, mostly for want of the proper data, which in many cases were hard to procure.

In writing a genealogical history of the family of Wendle Royer, the writer is not able to go back any farther, by lineal descent, than to Samuel Royer. He was born July 8, 1743, in Berks Co., Pa., and died July 30, 1813. His wife, Elizabeth, was born Jan. 29, 1744, and died Sept. 17, 1817. Both are buried at Klopp's church, at Hamlin, Lebanon Co., Pa. The inscription on their tombstones were copied by the writer's historian, Michael Zug, in 1895.

Samuel Royer, and wife Elizabeth, were blessed with three sons, namely: John, Jacob and Wendle. They lived near Frytown, Berks Co., Pa. John died at an advanced age. Jacob was born March 8, 1778, and died May 7, 1863, aged 85 years, 1 month and 29 days. Both John and Jacob are buried at Klopp's church.

Jacob Royer's only daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 1802, and died in 1887. She was married to Jacob Walborn, with whom she had three children.

At this late day, the writer was not able to procure the date of birth and death of Wendle Royer. He was married to Miss Gephart. In about 1835, he migrated from Berks to Center Co., Pa., locating near Madisonburg, in Brush Valley. Here he accumulated some real estate. Both he and wife died here, and their bodies are laid to rest in the cemetery at Madisonburg. This family was blessed with three sons, Jacob, John and Jonathan.

Jacob Royer, the eldest son, was married to Rebecca Yerick. Both died and are buried at Madisonburg. The names of their children follow: Mary Ann, Benjamin Wendle, Israel Elias, Samuel, Elizabeth, Sarah, Jacob and Naomi. Israel Elias, Samuel and Naomi died.

Mary Ann, the eldest daughter of Jacob Royer, married James J. Gramley, son of Joseph, deceased. They reside in Rebersburg, Pa. This family was blessed with eight children: Anna Minerva, deceased. She was married to Joseph Spangler; Ada Rebecca, married to Fred Yocum, and resides at Hublersburg, Pa.; Ammon Austin Gramley married to Miss Emma Deitz, and resides near Howard, Pa.; Carrie Esther was married to Fred McNair, deceased, and resides near Elburn, Ill.; Ellis James Gramley was married to Lizzie Phile, residing east of Freeport,

Ill.; Mabel Irene is married to Herbert Bentley; Mary Alverta has died; Joseph, son of James J. Gramley, is married to Miss Fortner, residing two miles from Dakota, Ill. (For complete history of this family see page 150.)

Benjamin Wendle, eldest son of Jacob Royer, married Amanda Stover. This union was blessed with eight children: William, Clayton, John, Mazie, Catherine, Ida May, Alvin and Pearl.

William Royer was married to Bertha Feidler. They were blessed with three children: Miles, Catherine and William Benjamin.

Clayton married Minnie Hoy. They had two children: Mary and Box. They reside in Bellefonte, Pa.

John, third son of William Royer, was married to Miss Brooks. They reside at Pleasant Gap, Pa. They were blessed with one son, James.

Mazie was the eldest daughter of Benjamin Wendle Royer; Catherine, Ida, Alvin and Pearl, were the others.

Israel Ellis, second son of Jacob Royer, has died.

Elizabeth, second daughter of Jacob Royer, was married to Clark Burkert, residing at Valley Falls, Kans. She died, and is buried at Madisonburg, Pa. Their issue was as follows:

One son, Edwin, who married Elizabeth Evans. Their issue was one daughter, Josephine Elizabeth. They reside at Valley Falls, Kans.

Bertha died single.

Lizzie married Lewis P. Houck. They have two children, Leona and Ruth.

Sarah, third daughter of Jacob Royer, was married to Jacob K. Gephart, residing at Rebersburg, Pa. Their issue was ten children:

Harry; Cora, who married Ammon Schroyer, residing at Rebersburg, Pa. Their children were Florence, Orvis, and Stella, who died.

Samuel Gephart married Lizzie Stover. They reside at Wolf's Store, and have two children, Helen and Luella.

Ada Gephart was married to Edwin Grenninger, residing at Rebersburg, Pa. They had one child, Miles.

Of Stella and Charles Gephart, the writer has no data relating to them. Bertie, Eddie, Ellen, and a younger child, all have died.

Jacob Royer, Jr., fourth son of Jacob Royer, Sr., was married to Miss Sarah Showers, residing at Madisonburg, Pa. This family was blessed with three children. Oscar who is married; Lizzie married to Elmer Swartz; and Eliza who married Mr. Schreckengast.

Naomi, the youngest daughter of Jacob Royer, Sr., died.

John Royer, the second son of Wendle, was married to Miss Mary Keape. Both have passed away and are buried at Farmers Mills cemetery, Pa. This family was blessed with twelve children, namely George, who died and is buried at Madisonburg, Pa.; Henry, Jonathan, William W.,

Rebecca J., who died and is buried at Farmers Mills cemetery, Pa.; Lucy also died and is buried at Madisonburg, Pa.; Elizabeth E.; Mary A.; Susan died and is buried at Farmers Mills, Pa.; John W. also died and is buried in the same cemetery at Farmers Mills; Sarah M. and Charles E. which makes the twelve.

Henry E., second son of John Royer, married Miss Amelia Hickman. She died and is buried in the Penn Valley cemetery. They had three children.

Harvey E., who married Miss Mary Long had one child, Clyde.

John F. married to Esther Shafer and have one child, Glen.

Jonathan, the third son of John Royer, was married to Margaret Rearick. Both have died and are buried at Bellefonte, Pa. They have one daughter, Ada. She married Philip H. Beezer, who had the following issue: Rosie, Arthur and Helen.

William W., fourth son of John Royer, died and is buried at Spruce-town, Pa. He was married to Miss Sarah Rankin. Their issue was five children.

Anna Mary, who married Ephriam Harter. They had the following children: Sarah V., George W. and Anna M.

Sarah E., married to William W. Bible. They had one child, Elsie M. L. W. Royer married to Elizabeth Ewing.

Edith was married to John C. Smith. Their children were Nevin A., John W., Albert J., Sarah E., Helen M. and Thurston.

Carrie M. is married to Charles E. Saunders.

Elizabeth E., third daughter of John Royer, married Frederick Limbert, residing at Aaronsburg, Pa. They had the following six children: Elmer E., married to Miss Mary C. Rocker, who had two children, namely George E. and Harry.

Anna A. married Edward T. Swarm. They had two children, Charles W. and Margaret E.

Katie E. Limbert married John Keller. Their children were Ray V. and Verna E.

Charles E. was married to Miss Mazie Geistwite.

Carrie A. Limbert married Clayton S. Musser. Their issue was as follows: Estella E., Steward R. and Philip E.

Frederick L. married Miss Clara E. Smith. Their issue was one son, Carl E.

Mary A., fourth daughter of John Royer, died and is buried in the cemetery at Farmers Mills, Pa. She was married to Jeremiah Snavely. Their issue was two children; Agnes, married to Andrew Rote (Role), residing at Spring Mills, Pa. There was no issue.

John Snavely married Miss Lettie Royer. They have two children, Harvey and Mary.

Sarah M., sixth daughter of John Royer, married William H. Gentzler. They reside in Missouri. They were blessed with ten children. Ammon, who married Miss Martha Owen. Their issue was Lottie D., Viola B., William and Herbert.

Frederick E. Gentzler married Miss Rena Webb. Their children were Pearl M. and Ola.

Forance H. Gentzler married Miss Nora Dewart. They had one child, named Claud.

Ernest C. Gentzler was married to Miss Alice Dunlap. They had one child, named Agnes.

The rest of Mr. William H. Gentzler's children were John E., Richard D., Kathryn M., Mabel, Ethel and Robert B.

Charles E. Royer, the youngest son of John Royer, was married to Miss Martha P. Harshbarger, residing at Spring Mills, Pa. Their issue was one son, Victor, who married Elizabeth Faxon. They had one child, John M.

Jonathan, the third and youngest son of Wendle Royer was married to Nancy Shafer. This union was blessed with eight children, namely: Jacob, Daniel, Samuel, John, Mary, Susan, George, who died while serving as a soldier in the civil war; Margaret was the youngest of the children.

Jacob, eldest son of Jonathan Royer, married Mary M. McLain. The issue of this union was ten children, eight of whom have died. Emma, the ninth, was married to a Mr. Hensley, residing in Iowa. Deck, the youngest of the family, married Miss Ethel Slot, residing in Kansas.

Daniel Royer, second son, was first married to Miss Margaret Greim. She died and is buried at Zion, Pa. They had one daughter, Maggie.

In due time thereafter Daniel married his second wife, Christy Robinold. They had the following children: Mary, Pearl, Rillie, who is married, John, Ollie, Ivon, who is married and has three children: Ellis, Jarrett and Calvin.

Maggie, eldest daughter of Daniel Royer, was married to H. A. Mechtle, residing at Tylersville, Pa. This union was blessed with thirteen children, namely: Andrew Dill, Wilton Clark, Rambrandt, Samuel, John Bright, Archey; two, the seventh and eighth, died; Wins, Goldie, Grace, Alina, Ruth, and Lillie who is married to Mr. Bollinger. They are blessed with one child.

Samuel R., third son of Jonathan Royer, died in Indiana. He was married to Miss Hannah Shafer. They were blessed with two children. The eldest died; the second, Samuel Royer, Jr., was married, to whom the writer does not know.

John, the fourth son of Jonathan Royer, was married to Miss Lucy Greim, residing at Zion, Pa. This union was blessed with six children:

William, who lives in Illinois; George, who is married to May Getchell. They had one child, Dorothy May, who died in 1906, and is buried at Dakota, Ill. Harvey, Ada, Emma, who was married to John Long, and died 1901. They had one child, Returah; Johanna Letitia who died.

Mary, eldest daughter of Jonathan Royer, was married to Jacob Bridge. He died in Feb., 1901, and his widow died in Oct., 1905. Both rest in the cemetery at Zion, Pa. This union was blessed with five children: Susan, Emma, Annie, Candace and William.

Susan, eldest daughter of Jacob Bridge, was married to Jacob Stein. Their children were Alma, Mary, Fannie, Nettie Nellie, and John; the last two named having died.

Emma, the second daughter, was married to Edward Hebern, residing at Bellefonte, Pa. Their issue was two children living, and two have died.

Annie Bridge, third daughter, married Frank Shuck, residing at New York. They have four children, Elsie, Mabel, Janetta and Herbert.

Candace Bridge, fourth daughter, was married to John Grassmeyer. This union was blessed with five children:

Mary, married to Earnest Bitner, who have one daughter, Helen.

John Grassmeyer, Jr., married Miss Katie Lingel. They have one child.

George, youngest son of John Grassmeyer, married Clara Neff. They have three children.

William, son of Jacob Bridge, the youngest in the family, was married to Miss Katie Hoy. They are blessed with one child.

Margaret, youngest daughter of Jonathan, died in 1880, and is buried in the cemetery at Zion, Pa. She was united in marriage with Frank Shamp. This union was blessed with seven children, namely, Emma, who died in 1891. She was married to Calvin Henderson; Mittie was married to Mr. Richards; Mary married Samuel Sphroll. They have three children, Katie married Louis Dunkle. Their children are Sallie and Charles. Pheoby married William Yarnell. They are blessed with eleven children. James Shamp was married to a Miss Sayers. They have three children. Potter, youngest son of John and Margaret Shamp, married for his first wife, Miss Hannah Harshberger, with whom he had four children, Ura, Nettie, Walter and Frank. His first wife died, and in due time thereafter, he married his second wife, whose maiden name has not been reported to the writer.

The history of Wendle Royer and his posterity is now completed. Most of the data was procured from John Royer, of Zion, Pa., through the hands of Jasper R. Brumgard, of Rebersburg, Pa. It is not known that this Royer branch is directly related to Christopher Royer, Sr., who came over from the Rhine Pfaltz, South Germany, in 1748, and was the

father of John, George, Christian, Christopher, Jr., Sebastian and Amos Royer.

It is known that at least four other Royer ancestors came over to the United States, from Germany, at different times, who, if related at all to the Christopher, Sr., family, are very remotely related, but they may have been connected in the Fatherland, which fact cannot now be traced, and is entirely lost by the oblivion of time.

The following is a brief history of various branches of the Royer family, in the United States, not closely connected.

George W. Wagenseller, editor of the Post, Middleburg, Pa., is the author of a genealogical history of a Royer family, whose ancestor was John Michael Royer, born in Schwabacks, Wittenberg, Germany, in 1686. By inter-marriage, this Royer family was related to the ancestors of the Wagensesellers (originally Wagansacl, in German, Wagansope). The Wagensesellers are numerous in Snyder county, Pa.

There is also a branch of the Royer family living in Blair county, Pa. It is said that they claim, as their ancestor, Sebastian Royer, who emigrated either from Switzerland, or the Palatinate, in 1818. They settled first near Manheim, Lancaster county, Pa., and afterwards some of them migrated to Blair county, Pa. Mr. A. H. Huber, who reported the above data, to Michael Zug, of Lebanon, Pa., a historian, says that the Royers in that county are as a class all well-to-do, very intelligent, greatly interested in their Royer genealogy, and are always ready and willing to give information to any one interested.

It is claimed that the ancestor of the Royer family, who settled in Buffalo Valley in Union county, Pa., many years ago (many are still residing there) was the same Sebastian Royer already noted.

Mr. Michael Zug, the historian of Lebanon, Pa., says that Sebastian emigrated with four sons from the Palatinate to America in 1718. At that time Amos, the youngest of his sons, who was about fourteen years old, was the ancestor of Michael Zug. They settled in Elizabeth township, Lancaster county, Pa., where he died April 2, 1769.

Christopher Royer, the fourth son of Amos, was born in Lancaster county, Pa., in 1739. He had four sons, three of whom migrated at an early day to Union county, Pa., namely John, born March 17, 1768; Daniel, born in 1777 and Joel born April 1779 as already stated. All had a numerous posterity many of whom emigrated to western states. Nearly all of them belonged to the German Baptist church, many of whom became prominent in that denomination as ministers and elders. Prof. J. G. Royer, of Mt. Morris College, Ill., says he was born in Union county, Pa. in 1838.

He is a grandson of John Royer above named. Rev. Galen B. Royer, born in 1862, son of Prof J. G. Royer, is a minister in that church.

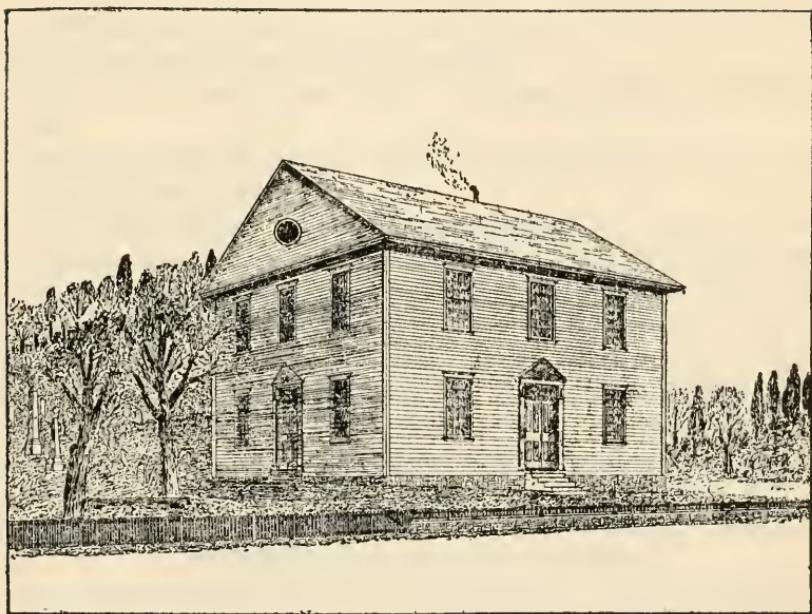
Jacob Royer, Jr., born in June 1831, is of the same family of Royers, lived in Stark county, Ohio. The wife of Jacob Camp Keller, of Akron, Ohio, was a great-granddaughter of Christopher Royer already noted. Joel B. Royer, of Elmwood, Nebr., a well-to-do farmer, is also a descendant of this Royer family.

Judge J. C. Royer, of the city of Tiffin, Ohio, belongs to a branch only remotely related to the Royers, whose genealogy is given in this history. Christopher Royer, Sr., who came over from the Rhein Pfaltz, South Germany in 1748, was the ancestor of this branch.

Judge Royer's great-grandfather was also a Christopher Royer, who was born October 25, 1768. He was married to Margaret Robelin, or Kobelin, who was born in 1776 and died October 16, 1854. Christopher resided in York county, Pa., from whence he and his family migrated in 1826 to Stark county, Ohio. Here he died on May 3, 1845, aged 76 years, 6 months and 8 days. This family was blessed with six sons and three daughters. The second son, John, was the grandfather of Judge J. C. Royer. Samuel, a son of John's, was the father of Judge Royer, of Tiffin, Ohio. The writer of this sketch was not able to trace any ancestors of the above Christopher Royer, however, there is no doubt that these various branches of the Royer family were closely connected in Germany. They emigrated to America during a long period of years but the tangled threads of genealogy can hardly be fully unraveled at this late day.

That such a relationship existed among these people at an early date, is proven by the fact that nearly all the branches of the Royer families had Christophers and Sebastians and, in many cases, these names are still retained and esteemed.





The Hassinger Church, Near Middleburg.

See Hassinger Church Historical Annals, chap. vii.



# HASSINGER CHURCH HISTORICAL ANNALS.

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## CHAPTER SEVEN.

Northumberland County was formed March 12, 1772, out of parts of Berks, Cumberland and Bedford Counties.

Union County was separated from Northumberland by act of March 22, 1813.

Snyder County was formed out of the southern half of Union County by act of March 2, 1855.

Middleburg became the county seat, located in Franklin township. Two miles west from the county seat, and one mile north from Paxtonville, is located this old and interesting church property, with its sacred burial grounds ("Gottes-Ocker") on high and dry ground. The scenery southward from this point is grand, overlooking part of the noted Middlecreek Valley. North and east of the church is a high lime-stone ridge called by the old settlers, "The Church Hill" ("Kirche Berg"). Along this ridge, east and west, the original public road leading to Middleburg was located. This road was since vacated and a new road located a little farther south on more level ground, thus eliminating two steep hills.

### Pioneers Buried in the Cemetery.

In the old cemetery attached to this church, many thousands of the departed people of the Valley, and hundreds of our ancestors, the pioneers of this locality are laid to rest, until the last "Trumpet" shall call them "To Rise Again". Among these are the following:

Christopher Royer, who was born at the Rhine Pfaltz, South Germany, in 1748. He was the great-grandfather of Amelia Royer, wife of the writer; Johan Yost Kern, born at Freischbach, Germany, in 1746, he being the great-grandfather of the writer on the maternal side; Johan Adam Gift, great-grandfather of the writer, emigrated to America in 1750, (for a full genealogy see General History Page 29). Jacob Hassinger, born Aug. 10, 1762, died 1821. Johan Hassinger, born Nov. 14, 1764, died May 12, 1810; Abraham Hassinger, born in 1750. These are the progenitors of all the Hassinger's in Penna. and western States. Christ's church is familiarly known as Hassinger's church named from these pioneers.

Paul Bowersox came over from Germany in 1772. He is the ancestor of all the Bowersox's.

John Conrad Bubb (Bub, Bob) was born Feb. 5, 1740, died in Feb. 1809, being the ancestor of the Bubb branches in Pennsylvania and western states.

John Frederick Bolender, born March 17, 1761, died Jan. 13, 1832, ancestor of all the Bolender families.

Michael Swengel (Schwengel) was born July 13, 1744, died April 1, 1851. The ancestor of all the Swengel's in this locality.

John Jacob Steininger, born Feb. 15, 1776, died Oct. 13, 1847. He was the progenitor of the numerous Steininger families in Pennsylvania.

Jacob Walter was born in Germany, Jan. 15, 1729, and died Jan. 23, 1809. He is the pioneer of all the Walter branches in Pennsylvania. He took much interest in church matters.

Rev. John Conrad Walter, a Lutheran minister, was born Nov. 30, 1775, in Germany, died August 10, 1819.

The foregoing pioneer settlers, and most of their posterity are buried in this old church cemetery.

The historian will now endeavor to give a history of the organization of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations of Christ's church, the building of the churches, etc., as nearly correct as possible from the meager data at hand. For this purpose some extracts have been taken from a short history of this church, written by Rev. J. P. Shindel, published in the history of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valley, Penna. The organization by Everts, Peck and Richards.

Previous to 1785, a band of earnest and devout Lutheran and German Reformed Christians assembled themselves together from time to time for worship. Their meetings were held mostly from house to house.

#### Acquiring Real Estate Tract No. 1.

I cite from title deed written on strong \*parchment dated Nov. 11, 1785, by Joseph Simon, (said to have been a converted Jew,) and Rose, his wife, of the Borough of Lancaster, Lancaster County, Penna., by which they conveyed to Jacob Hassinger, Jacob Walter and Michael Mourer, trustees, all of Penns township, Northumberland County, Pa., a certain tract of land now situated in Franklin township, two miles west of Middleburg, now (1908) adjoining lands of John W. Walter, Kemer C. Walter, Mrs. Charles Boyer, and John Duck, containing by a subsequent survey eighteen acres and one hundred and thirty perches, neat measure, being held in trust for the use of the members in communion with the church commonly called the Lutheran church, and to, and for the members in communion with the church commonly called Calvinist church, as is established in that part of Europe called Germany, and to and for the use and purposes of a site of church, and a school house

\*A thin raw hide leather.

and burying ground, all for the use of the foregoing two church denominations, and for no other use, interest or purpose.

Tract No. 2, situated in same township, two miles west from tract No. 1 in addition to other lands already conveyed to the Trustees of Christ's church, the grantors of which cannot, at this late day, be named. John Fike and Eve, his wife, by their deed, dated Dec. 17, 1825, granted to Jacob Gift and Michael Gerhart, trustees of Christ's church and for school purposes, adjoining other church and school lands on the south and containing 2 acres, 154 square perches. In pursuance to an act of the Penna. legislature passed the 28th day of March 1771, this tract No. 2 was sold by Henry M. Rearick and William Bowersox, trustees by their deed, dated April 13, 1872 and conveyed the same to Jackson Moyer, which by sundry conveyances become vested in Angeline, wife of Ammon Harpster, who still owns it now in 1908.

By the financial aid and other assistance rendered by the members of the two congregations, the three trustees in 1785, were enabled to erect on the eastern, or tract No. 1, a log building for a house of worship, where for a number of years services were held. This building, however, was never dedicated. Those who preached in this rude structure were Revs. Shellhart, Jcsansky and Espy of the Lutherans and Revs. Rahansen, Hensel and Geistweit of the German Reformed. During the existence of this humble house of worship, the Indians, who were still numerous in these wilds, would occasionally prowl around in the neighborhood so that the people in this sparsely settled valley were almost continually kept on these grounds for fear of an Indian surprise. The writer when a young boy was informed by his grandfather, Jeremiah Gift, that when there were services in the little log church the gun and hunting knife were indispensable articles to the male members and were taken with them to the church, often the minister was armed.

Tradition says, and it is well verified, that on a Sunday, while the people were engaged in worship in the log church (and this time no guard was stationed at the door) a party of marauding Indians on a murderous expedition, appeared a few of the bolder ones, creeping stealthily among the brushes made their way up to the church and securely barricading the door, piled up a heap of combustible material against the building, evidently with the intention of burning the church and destroying the occupants and shoot and scalp those who should attempt to escape.

Fortunately, however, before the torch was applied, it happened that one Tese Reager, an old hunter and trapper, was on horse back hunting on top of the ridge, north of the church, seeing the Indians, but unperceived by them on account of the intervening timber and brush, he rode back and forth discharging his gun as fast as he could load and at

the top of his voice gave commands as though he was in charge of a company of soldiers. This had the desired effect; the Indians quickly retreated towards the wilds of Shade mountain on the south of the valley. Mr. Reager immediately unbarred the church door. The readers may imagine that the members looked upon Mr. Reager as their great hero and liberator.

A few years earlier the Stuck family was murdered by the Indians about five miles east from the church.

### The Second Church Building.

The old log church now becoming too small and uncomfortable to accomodate the increasing membership, in the year 1791, preparations were made to build a new church and between that year and 1798 the building was erected on a site a little to the south-west of the old log house. This was a large, two-story, square, double-hewed log structure, with a very high, oval board ceiling, inside painted light blue, finished inside with high galleries on the east, south and west sides, on the north side was a small round ornate pulpit and a sounding board above perched on a high round post with a flight of steep stairs for the preacher to ascend and descend. At the base of the pulpit to the southward facing the audience was a large square alter. Towards the westward near the front of the stairs, within easy communication with the preacher in the pulpit, was a space surrounded by a nice railing with a door, and a seat inside for the leader ("Vorsinger") of the congregational singing and his assistants if any were employed. This church had a seating capacity of five hundred people. In the same year 1798 the church was dedicated as Christ's church, Rev. Geistwite Reformed pastor and Rev. Shultz, Lutheran, invited from abroad conducted the services on this occasion.

In about 1807 this building was weather-boarded and painted white.

The pastors officiating in this church from time to time were on the Lutheran side: Revs. Enterline Herbst, 1802-04; John Conrad Walter, 1805-19; J. P. Shindel, Sr., 1820, Supply; J. W. Smith, 1821-31; William German, 1831-1838; J. P. Shindle, Jr., 1838-61; C. G. Erlenmeyer, 1864-71. On the Reformed side were Revs. Geistweit, 1793-1804; W. Adams, 1807-09; Isaac Gerhart, 1813-20; Felix, 1820-25; Daniel Weiser, 1825-29; Henry Bassler, 1829-35; Frederick Herman, 1835—; E. H. Hoffheims, 1838-40; A. B. Casper, 1840-48; W. G. Hackman, 1848-58; G. W. Schultz, 1858-63; L. C. Edmonds, 1863-65; C. F. Hofmeier, 1865-70; T. J. Seiple, 1870-73.

After the death of Rev. John Conrad Walter, Nov. 30, 1819, a faithful Lutheran minister, the congregation extended a cordial invitation to Father Rev. J. P. Shindle, Sr., to succeed their beloved pastor. He could not, however, leave his congregation at Sunbury, Pa., but promised

to preach for them until they could get a regular pastor. This he did until Rev. J. W. Smith became their pastor as above stated.

Rev. J. P. Shindel, Jr., took charge of the church in 1838 as already noted.

He states that, having commenced his labors among these people, he found them kind and affectionate, and that in the course of his ministrations, he had the great satisfaction of receiving many members, instructing many catechumens, and baptizing many children. After Rev. Shindel, Jr., quit preaching in 1861, Rev. Dr. H. Zeigler, and students of the Missionary Institute, (now Susquehanna University) at Selinsgrove, Penna., supplied the pulpit. In this historic church the writer, A. K. Gift, and his wife, Amelia, were confirmed, the former by Rev. J. P. Shindel, Jr., in 1845, and the latter by Rev. W. G. Hackman in 1851.

### The Third Church.

In 1872, the (old) Lutheran members of the General Council, and the German Reformed, determined to build a new church. They tore down the old two-story Gallery church, using much of the old material in the construction of third church. Part of the money was secured by the sale of the tract of land, two miles west, as already noted. The new church was built on the same spot where the old church stood, on ground donated by deed by Joseph Simon and his wife more fully stated above.

### Corner Stone Laying and Dedication.

The corner stone was laid with imposing ceremonies on Trinity Sunday in May, 1872, when the following ministers were present: C. G. Erlenmeyer, Lutheran, and A. B. Casper, T. J. Seiple and L. C. Edmonds on the Reformed side.

On the second day of February, 1873, this church was dedicated and, like its predecessor, the church retained the original name as Christ's Evangelical Lutheran and German Reformed Union church. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. H. H. Bruning, a visiting Lutheran pastor from Selinsgrove; Revs. J. C. Bucher, D. D., of Lewisburg; L. C. Edmonds, of Beaver Springs, and T. J. Seiple, the pastor in charge, all on the Reformed side, took part in the dedicatory services. In 1901 the outside of the building was painted white, the inside was also beautifully painted, papered, and nicely decorated. The seats are well arranged, the interior arrangement throughout is churchly. It will seat about five hundred people.

The regular pastors preaching in this last church from time to time have been as follows: Revs. D. M. Stetler, 1874-87; O. E. Pflueger, 1887-89; J. M. Wetzler, 1889-94; O. S. Scheirer, 1894-96; C. D. Zweier, 1897-1900; E. E. Seiger, 1900-1902; D. C. Kaufman, 1902-1907 and Wm. Geiger, present pastor, all were Lutheran ministers.

### Split in the Church.

In 1871-72 the General Synod members of the Lutherans withdrew from the General Council Lutherans and erected their own church, leaving the latter in full possession of the old church property. The General Synod members at once selected a lot, a quarter of a mile west from the old church, containing one acre, which was donated by Mr. Allen Schoch for church and cemetery purposes and for the exclusive use of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation. The church was built under the supervision of a building committee, consisting of Messrs. John S. Hassinger, Allen Schoch and Henry H. Shaefner.

The corner-stone was laid in May, 1871, on which occasion there were present: Rev. Dr. Peter Born, of Selinsgrove, Pa., and Rev. S. P. Orwig, the pastor. In the fall of 1872 the church was finished and ready for dedication.

At the dedicatory services, the ministers present were: Rev. W. H. Gottsevalt and Rev. S. P. Orwig, pastor. This church also adopted the old name and was dedicated as Christ's Evangelical Lutheran church. This place of worship is a neat brick structure, two stories high, thirty-eight by fifty feet, and will seat about three hundred and fifty people. The church cost about three thousand dollars. The following named ministers have been regular pastors of this congregation: Revs. Samuel P. Orwig, 1871-73; G. Roth, 1874-75; J. D. Kendall, 1875-76; I. H. Irwine, 1877-81; J. C. Brodfuhrer, —— Oct. 15, 1881; A. H. Spangler, 1882-83; Samuel P. Orwig, 1884-90; Dr. I. P. Neff, 1890-94; D. E. McLain, 1895-01; W. K. Diehl, 1901-07; E. H. Leisenring, D. D., 1908.

### Rev. John Conrad Walter.

A sketch of the life of Rev. John Conrad Walter, taken principally from a church history, published by Prof. D. S. Boyer and Rev. J. F. Wampole in 1891.

Rev. John Conrad Walter was born in Germany, November 30, 1775, and, when three years old, came with his parents to this country and settled in Tulpehocken, near Womelsdorf. He learned the trade of shoemaking when a young man, while attending preaching under Rev. William Hendel, D. D., a Reformed minister at Womelsdorf, who like his father, had a wonderful gift of prayer, being fluent, full of unction, and peculiarly impressive; he was so deeply impressed during one of his prayers, and drawn so near to the Saviour, that he afterwards had no peace of mind, until he decided to devote himself to the work of the ministry. He afterwards called to see Dr. Hendel, when passing through Womelsdorf and gratefully informed him of the circumstances.

He at once placed himself under the instruction of a minister, (Rev. Herbaugh,) either at Lebanon or Reading. He took a thorough course of study in Theology, during this time. He was an apt student in Di-

dactic and Homiletic Theology, as was found in his manuscript, Latin, Greek and even Hebrew were freely used. He prepared the brothers, John George and John William Heim for the ministry, the latter being under his instruction for five years.

Rev. Walter was about 29 years of age, when he completed his studies and took charge in 1804 of Selinsgrove, Salem, Freeburg, Grubb, Liverpool, St. Michaels in Pfoutz's Valley and in 1805 of Christs, known as Hassinger's church and in 1807 of Adamsburg and Musser's Valley churches and in 1810 of the charge at Freemont.

About this time his parents moved from Tulpehocken to a point south of Freeburg in what is known as Firestone Valley.

Rev. Walter was married to Miss Catharine Ulch, of Pfoutz's Valley on October 27, 1807.

Rev. Walter was a Lutheran minister, a fluent and forceful orator.

From 1805 to the time of his death he served the old two story gallery church at Hassinger's. He resided at Middleburg, Pa., where he died on August 10, 1819, of intermittent fever, his age was 43 years, 8 months and 10 days. His remains rest in the old cemetery at Christ's Lutheran and Reformed Union church, commonly known as Hassinger's church. His grave is close to the church and is marked by a fine high tombstone with proper inscriptions. His funeral sermon was preached by Rev. J. P. Shindel, Sr., of Sunbury, Pa. Text Heb. 13:7. Rev. Walter's funeral was very largely attended. By actual count there were 1500 people present from his eight congregations and other friends. He had labored in the ministry only fifteen years and was yet in the prime of life and in the midst of his usefulness and was beloved by all who knew him when the Lord took him home. The writer's father, John Gift, was confirmed by him at the old Hassinger church.

#### Rev. J. P. Shindel, Jr.

A short sketch of the life and labors of Rev. John Peter Shindel, Jr., son of Rev. John Peter Shindel, Sr., copied principally from the church history already noted.

Rev. John Peter Shindel, Jr., was born in Lebanon, Pa., July 25, 1810. He was baptized by Rev. George Lochman, D. D., and was confirmed by his father at Sunbury, Pa.

His education, beyond a common school education, was principally received from his father with a view of entering the Holy Ministry.

He preached his first sermon on Nov. 11, 1832 at Little Mahanoy, and during the autumn and winter he preached for his father in his several charges.

He was married to Miss Sophia Young, of Sunbury, Pa., in September 1833. In 1834 he accepted a call from Little Mahanoy, where he preached until 1838. During the same time he also preached for a small con-

gregation at Hallow Run or Conrad's school house. In June, 1835, he commenced preaching at Hessler's church at Kratzerville and also collected a small congregation at Shamokin Dam which he served in connection with Kratzerville. In 1838, he accepted a call from three congregations viz: Black Oak Ridge, Beaver Dam and Christ's, known as Hassinger's church, which formed a charge in connection with Hessler's church at Kratzerville.

At a meeting of the Pennsylvania Synod in Philadelphia in 1838, he was licensed to preach as he had previously only preached as a student of his father and under his supervision. On August 30, 1838 he moved with his family to near Middleburg, Pa., where he resided for some time when he moved into Middleburg, where he lived in his own home until his death. He was ordained at the meeting of Synod at Allentown, Pa., May 22, 1839, after which he added the congregation at Laurelton, Union county, and at Centreville on October 28, 1839. He had now seven congregations in his charge. When St. Peter's church at Globe Mills was built in 1840, he organized a congregation there and preached for them until 1853 during which time the congregation had grown to 175 members. After having been supplied by others for several years, he was recalled June 21, 1856 and continued to serve them until May 1866, having thus served this congregation for 23 years. He also organized and served congregations at Samuel's church in Decatur township, Mifflin county. He also served the churches at Troxelville, Pa. and Beavertown. He labored in most of these congregation until December, 1868, when he retired from the active duties of the ministry having preached 36 years. The summary of his ministerial labors in these congregations is as follows: Sermons preached 2650; lectures delivered 1031; baptisms 3229; funerals 636; marriages 1044; communion services 162; catechumens 2097; miles traveled in charge 49,116; miles traveled to synods 2688.

Rev. John Peter Shindel, Jr., was a faithful, conscientious and efficient Evangelical Lutheran minister. His wife, Sophia, died March 14, 1852. They were blessed with six children, three of whom are still living.

John Y. Shindel, M. D., of Middleburg, M. Louisa, married to J. P. Cronimiller, Esq., of Mifflinburg, now deceased, afterwards she married Rev. Dr. Ernest, now also deceased; Lizzie B., married Thomas J. Smith, Esq., of Middleburg, deceased.

On January 18, 1855, Rev. Shindel married his second wife Miss Sallie Gobin, of Sunbury, Pa. They had two children, Edward G., deceased and Martha Ellen.

#### Rev. J. P. Shindel, Sr.

The following is a sketch of the life and labors of Rev. Father John Peter Shindel, Sr.

Rev. John Peter Shindel, Sr., was born in Lebanon, Pa., October 3, 1787. He was a son of John Peter and Margaret Menges Shindel. Mrs. Shindel was a sister to Jacob Menges, who lived near Freeburg, Pa., where Robert Packnicke afterwards lived. Jacob was the father of Washington Menges, of Freeburg, and the Hon. E. R. Menges, of Bristol, Ind.

Rev. Shindel studied theology with Rev. George Lochman, D. D., and was licensed to preach the gospel, May 24, 1812, at the meeting of the Pennsylvania Synod at Carlisle, Pa., and was at once called to Sunbury charge, which at that time embraced the territory from Lykens Valley to Shamokin and Catawissa, Pa., nearly fifty miles in extent. He at once moved to Sunbury and commenced his labors, July 4, 1812. Thus, while he was serving the congregations on the east side of the Susquehanna river; Rev. John Conrad Walter was serving those on the west side of that river. They at once became warm friends and their friendship never abated while they lived.

In many of the churches in which Rev. Shindel commenced his labors, he continued to preach up to July 2, 1851, nearly 40 years.

After Rev. Walter's death, which occurred Aug. 10, 1819, the eight congregations which he had served so well, urgently invited Rev. Shindel to become their pastor, although he sympathized very much with these congregations, he could not accept this call on account of his congregations across the river in Northumberland county, but consented to supply their pulpits with the help of his student, J. W. Smith. After Rev. Smith had finished his theological studies and was licensed to preach, he took charge of Rev. John Conrad Walter's congregations in 1821.

Rev. John Peter Shindel, Sr., was married to Miss Susan McCulloch. Eleven children were born to them.

Jeremiah, who was also a Lutheran preacher, and served churches in Columbia and afterwards in Lehigh Co. and died in Allentown, Pa., in 1870. He also served in the State Senate, and was a chaplain in the war of the Rebellion.

Solomon, who represented Dauphin Co. in the Legislature of Pa. and died in Sunbury in 1862.

John Peter, Jr., was a Lutheran minister and died in Middleburg in 1888.

Louisa was married to Gideon Leisenring. She died at Selinsgrove in 1853.

Susan was married to Samuel Gobin, and died in Sunbury 1878.

Anna Maria married Benjamin Hendricks, and died in Sunbury in 1877.

Jacob G. L., a druggist in Selinsgrove, died there Jan. 24, 1898. He was elected and served five years as Associate Judge, of Snyder Co.

Daniel W. was a physician in Sunbury, Pa., now deceased.

Isaac Newton, also a physician, died in Selinsgrove, Pa.

Martin Luther, was first a lawyer, and afterwards became a Lutheran preacher and had a charge in Danville, Pa., where he died.

Philip Malanchou died in Sunbury.

Rev. Father Shindel, Sr., also has three grand sons in the Lutheran ministry: Rev. Jacob D. Shindel, son of Rev. Jeremiah Shindel, residing at Allentown, Pa.; Rev. James C., son of Judge Jacob G. L. Shindel, preaching at Kansas City, Mo.; Rev. E. H. Leisenring, D. D., a son of Louisa Leisenring, nee Shindel, now (1908) preaching in Middleburg, Pa.

A granddaughter, Lizzie Hendricks, was married to Hon. Simon P. Wolverton, a prominent attorney of Sunbury, Pa., and a grandson of Gen. J. P. Shindel Gobin, who is a prominent lawyer at Lebanon, and who served with distinction in the war of the Rebellion, and in the State Senate and later as Laeut. Governor, of Pennsylvania.

Rev. J. P. Shindel, Sr., died in Sunbury, Oct. 26, 1853, aged 66 years and 23 days. His wife, Susan, died March 14, 1870, aged 81 years. Both are buried in the old cemetery at Sunbury, Pa. Rev. Shindel was a faithful and efficient minister for forty-one years. But he now rests from his labors, and his works do follow him. Peace to his ashes.

#### Crime of Spangenberg—Fake Minister.

The writer has taken this following incident from his historical data book, (kept for that purpose) as told to him when a mere boy by his grandfather, Jeremiah Gift.

In about 1783, a German named Cyriascus Spangenberg came to Middlecreek Valley, the territory now composing the township of Penn, Middlecreek, Franklin and Perry, then Northumberland now Snyder county and announced himself as a minister. He proved to be an imposter. He was highly educated; his autograph shows excellent penmanship and he was a fair German orator. Ministers in those days were very scarce, consequently he was employed. It is said that he preached in the original old log church, known as Hassinger's church very near the site of the present building. This Spangenberg claimed to be a single man. He had a cross and surly disposition. His people soon found out that he had never studied for the ministry but merely took it up to gain a livelihood. His people soon tired of him and he left and succeeded in introducing himself to congregations in Bedford and Somerset counties, still saying he was a single man. Soon after this his wife came over from Germany. This caused quite an excitement, his people censured him for not telling the truth. He gave as his reason in his high German: "Ich Glaubda Gott hatta daus ehebond szerrisson weil mier labden so weida foon einaunder." (I thought God had severed the bonds of matrimony because we lived so far apart.) He and his wife then lived together and he was permitted to preach on for some time.

He was then already well advanced in years. He was serving four or five congregations. He felt that he would soon be too old to preach so he made the following proposition to his congregations: That he would preach for them as long as he was able, and after he was too old and feeble to perform his clerical duties they would have to keep him and his wife as long as they lived and that this contract was to be in writing. When he made the proposition to one of his congregation, after the services were over, all the church officers agreed excepting Elder Jacob Glassmore. He boldly objected in the presence of Spangenberg and the other church officers and members remaining giving as his reason for opposing this plan that he would serve them only a short time, then say that he was no longer able to serve them, and that he would become a burden upon them in consequence of this agreement. The contract was not made.

### Rev. Spangenberg Kills Glassmore.

This statement enraged Spangenberg and he left the church for his home several miles away. Soon after Elder Glassmore in company with another member also left for their homes. When they came to the residence of Spangenberg he invited them in. They both entered; after some conversation they both left. When they were out on the street Spangenberg recalled Glassmore, who entered the house alone and just as he went through the door, Spangenberg stepped out from behind the door with a long knife and stabbed Glassmore through the heart. He died instantly. This aroused the neighborhood and the people gathered and bound their prisoner with ropes and as he stood bound, he said in German: "So hauben sie unsern Leben Heiland aug ghebunden" (So they had bound our beloved Saviour also) to which his wife remarked: "O God! such a deed you have done once before in the old country."

He was conveyed to the county jail at Bedford, Bedford Co., Pa. His trial ended April 27, 1795. He was found guilty of murder in the first degree and was executed on October 10th following, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. in the Bedford county jail yard. Just before he was hanged he asked permission from the sheriff to smoke another pipe of tobacco, for he said, "It will be the last on earth." Thus ended the life of a man who had found his way into the quiet rural settlements of Pennsylvania as the serpent did into Eden. Spangenberg had come over from the old country with the Hessian Mercenaries under General Kuyphausen in 1776-77, who were hirelings, and came with the English soldiers to fight the United Colonies of America in their struggle for Independence. He was an educated man and by the connivance of a frivolous preacher named Philip J. Michaels, secured irregular ordination to preach under the German Reformed church in this country.

Note 1. John Blair Lynn, Esq., in his history of Buffalo Valley, in reference to the Spangenberg murder case, does not say his wife ever come to this country, but says on page 218, Spangenberg drew upon himself the affections of a young female, and obtained her promise of marriage. The day was fixed but on the day previous, a letter was discovered from his wife, still living in Europe. This at once arrested further proceedings.

On the same page Mr. Lynn says the murder of Glassmore took place in the church in presence of the church officers and some members. It would seem unnatural that Spangenberg should commit such a deed in a public place. He would rather seek a more isolated place, like his own home, as was related to the writer by his grandfather.

Note 2. The foregoing church history will also be published in the author's forth coming genealogy of the Gift and other families under the heading of Jeremiah Gift.

#### Rev. Gensel—A Boozer.

I copy the following verbatim (excepting a few corrections by the writer) from the history of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, Penna., written by Rev. J. P. Shindel, of Middleburg, Pa.

"In the quiet early history of these congregations, many self-constituted ministers from Germany and other localities, imposed upon these honest pioneer people of the valley. A certain man by the name of Gensel gave himself out as a Lutheran minister, who, it seems, was like all these impostors, very fond of liquor. He would sometimes get very drunk and yet be allowed to preach the gospel, because in those early years, ministers were scarce. This would-be minister, Rev. Gensel, on one occasion was fording Middlecreek, where Royer's Bridge is now located, in Snyder County, when he fell from his horse and was drowned, where the water was only about six inches deep. Some supposed it to have been a stroke of palsy. This was the last of Rev. Gensel. It seems to be a well established fact that he preached in the first Hassinger's church (the log building) in about 1789.

#### The Church Home.

Thus lived and died two of the men who served these people as their pastors. We know very little of what they taught, but we know that their lives and character were contrary to the plain teaching of the gospel, and we fear their influence upon the people, upon whom they imposed, was not elevating.

But fortunately for the church at large and especially for this congregation, nearly all the ministers, who served them were pious, God-fearing men, of more than ordinary ability. Their teaching and their life corresponded. Such a life leaves an impress upon the community in which itmingles.

Here we close our brief and imperfect account of this historic church. For one and a quarter centuries, men, women and children have worshipped here. Their spiritual and moral life were shaped here.

Here they received the Gospel messages and the sacraments. Here their children were instructed along spiritual lines, and later confirmed and received into full membership. From this church, were spoken the eulogies for their dead, and here they lie buried. Here they mingled their tears and shared their joys and sorrows.

What a blessing this church was, and still is, to this community. Her influence reached from her first inception to the present time, and made of these people a community of honest, intelligent, stalwart christian men and women, and we believe that their influence will reach far into the dim future.



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